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FBIS-EEU-88-033 CONTENTS *19 February 1988*

ALBANIA

- French Foreign Ministry Delegation Departs 1
- Ruiz-led Cuban Trade Delegation Arrives 1
- Trade Union General Council Plenum Held 1

BULGARIA

- Diplomat's Expulsion From Sweden Protested 2
- Balkan Conference Previewed by Officials 2
    - Mladenov Meets SFRY Envoy 2
    - Ganev Gives News Conference 2
    - BCP Daily Previews Meeting *[Tsonkov in RABOTNICHESKO DELO 17 Feb]* 3
    - Youth Daily Views Forum *[Zvetanov in NARODNA MLADEZH 16 Feb]* 4
- Tanchev Activities in Italy Reported 5
- Balev, Delegation Attend Madrid CP Congress 6
    - Balev Meets Party Officials 6
- Gotsev Holds Political Talks in Lisbon 6
- Chief Mufti Voices Support For Palestinians 6
- International Journalist Meeting in Sofia 7
- Mass Media Role in Restructuring Encouraged *[Pavlov in RABOTNICHESKO DELO 12 Feb]* 7
- BCP Commission Restores Party Memberships *[RABOTNICHESKO DELO 16 Feb]* 8

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

- Party Dailies Carry Anti-Church Series 9
- Jakes Attends Victorious February Ceremony 10
- Jakes Sees Society 'Awakening' Politically 11
- Polednik Lauds Socialist Party as CPCZ Ally *[RUDE PRAVO 5 Feb]* 11
- Lenart Addresses Bratislava Aktiv 12
- Czech Government Meets, Views Restructuring 12
- Foreign Ministry Official Discusses Terrorism *[PRACE 16 Feb]* 13
- Government Spokesmen Describe Economic Trends 13
- Statistics Office Releases Economic Report 13
- Deceased CPCZ CC Member Himl Buried 14
- Luhovy, Soviet Agricultural Minister Meet 14
- Soviet Friendship Society Meets in Prague 15
- Communique on Visit to European Parliament *[RUDE PRAVO 12 Feb]* 15
- Leaders Public Appearances 18-22 Jan 88 15
- Leaders Public Appearances 22-29 Jan 88 16

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

- Reichelt Addresses Baltic Sea Conference *[NEUES DEUTSCHLAND 17 Feb]* 18
- Kessler Visits Army-USSR Forces Training Area 19
- Conference on Nuclear-Free Zone Proposed *[AFP]* 19
    - Appeal Message Reported 19
    - Axen Addresses Committee 20
- Physicians Issue Declaration on Nuclear War *[NEUES DEUTSCHLAND 17 Feb]* 22

HUNGARY

- Budapest Reports Gromyko To Visit 23-27 Feb 23
- Rally Celebrates Hungarian-Soviet Treaty 23

    TV Reports Kulikov Comments 23
Szuros Talks With Italian, Vatican Officials 24
Syrian Party Delegation Visits 11-18 Feb 25
GDR's Dohlus Heads Delegation to Budapest 25
HSWP Delegation To Attend Spanish CP Congress 25
Notion of 'Crisis' Atmosphere Analyzed *[Koncz in NEPSZABADSAG 13 Feb]* 25
Electric Power Plant Projects Expanded *[NEPSZAVA 15 Feb]* 27
Briefs 28
    HSWP Delegation Talks 28

POLAND

Paper Calls for 'Greater Openness' With USSR 29
Weekly Analyzes 'Independence' of Politics *[Olejnik in RZECZYWISTOSC 31 Jan]* 29
1,500 in Krakow March for Students' Union *[AFP]* 31
Orzechowski Meets University Rectors *[TRYBUNA LUDU 16 Feb]* 31
Sejm Resolution on Economic Reform *[TRYBUNA LUDU 12 Feb]* 32
    Second Stage Implementation *[TRYBUNA LUDU 15 Feb]* 35
Council of State Ratifies Official Agreements 39
    Reviews Civil Conventions 39
PZPR Politburo Approves Various Reforms 40
PRON Executive Committee Presidium Meets 40
Barcikowski Discusses Nuclear Dump Issue *[GAZETA LUBUSKA 25 Nov]* 40

ROMANIA

SCINTEIA Calls for Interest Rate Cuts 42
SCINTEIA Condemns Reactionary Campaign 42
U.S. Writer's Book on Transylvania Published 43
Comparison of Elections at UCSAR Conference 43
Agriculture Council Plenary Meeting Opens 43
    Agenda for Meeting 44
    Documents Debated 44
    Addressed by Ceausescu 44
Cooperative Farms Union Holds Plenary Meeting 44

YUGOSLAVIA

Loncar Receives Shevardnadze Message 46
Loncar Interviewed on Balkan Meeting 46
Dissident Views Bloc Human Rights Record *[Madrid ABC 13 Feb]* 46
Rozic Pays Official Visit to New Zealand 47
    Meets Trade Minister 48
Afghan Envoy on Neutrality of Government 48
Presidency Discusses Attacks on People's Army 48
    Belgrade SAWP Views Attacks 49
Rules Reform Sought in Assembly's Chamber 49
Culafic Speaks on Public Order, Dissent 49
Kosovo Presidency, LC Discuss Nationalism 50
Renovica Speaks on Kosovo Emigration 51
Hasani, Seljani Discuss Province's Problems 51
Kosovo Polje LC Deplores 'Vulgar Behavior' *[RILINDJA 12 Feb]* 52
SAWP Meeting Expresses Serb Grievances *[RILINDJA 8 Feb]* 52
Kosovo Press Protests Belgrade TV Coverage *[RILINDJA 14 Feb]* 53
Court Sentences Two for 'Hostile Propaganda' *[RILINDJA 12 Feb]* 54
Slovene Writers on Constitutional Changes *[BORBA 2 Feb]* 54
Slovene Defense Council Considers Defense 56
Serbian LC Central Committee Presidium Meets 57
Court To Examine Earlier Law on Strikes 57
'Most Vocal' Miners Dismissed After Strike *[BORBA 12 Feb]* 57
Health Workers Strike Over Low Pay 58

Strikers Gather Outside Slovene Assembly 58
Workers Strike Because They Have 'No Work'
Workers at Building Enterprise End Strike 58
New Journalists' Code Sparks Debate 58
More Than 3,000 Newspapers Published in SFRY *[BORBA 12 Feb]* 59

French Foreign Ministry Delegation Departs

AU180944 Tirana ATA in English
0745 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Tirana, February 18 (ATA)—The delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, headed by the state secretary under the minister of foreign affairs, Didier Bariani, wound up his official and friendly visit and left our country.

Present to see the delegation off at the airport were Sokrat Plaka, vice minister of foreign affairs, Maxhun Peka, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania to the French Republic, and other officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Present were also the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the French Republic in our country, Philippe Legrain, and other embassy officials.

Likewise, the group of French businessmen, journalists, singers, and artists that accompanied the state secretary under the minister of foreign affairs, Didier Bariani, in this visit left our country.

Upon their stay in Albania, the French friends visited the Museum of National History. They went to the district of Berat, where they visited the "Onufri" Museum and the castle. In Berat the delegation was received by the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the District People's Council, Kristaq Kule, who gave a lunch in honour of the State Secretary under the minister of foreign affairs, Didier Bariani, and the persons accompanying him.

The French film, "The Field of Honour", produced by Jean Pierre Denis, was shown in the Palace of Culture in the capital. It was followed with interest by working people of work and production centers, men of art and culture, and young boys and girls.

At the end of his visit, the state secretary under the minister of foreign affairs of France, Didier Bariani, held a press conference with French and Albanian journalists, where he spoke on his impressions of Albania. He expressed his satisfaction for the 2-day visit to our country, the warm reception extended to the French delegation, thanking for this the Albanian authorities. Didier Bariani, secretary of state, pointed out among others the pride of the Albanian people and their determination to safeguard national independence. In all the meetings and talks with the top personalities of different fields, he said, there was expressed the common desire to further strengthen and develop the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Ruiz-led Cuban Trade Delegation Arrives

AU181946 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian
1900 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text) A government trade delegation of the Republic of Cuba, led by Minister of Foreign Trade Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz, arrived today in Albania. The delegation was welcomed at Rinas Airport by Minister of Foreign Trade Shane Korbeci; Izedin Hajdini, chief of a Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate; and other comrades. Carlos Alonso Moreno, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba in Albania, was also present.

Talks also began today between the Albanian delegation, led by Minister of Foreign Trade Shane Korbeci, and the Cuban delegation, led by Minister of Foreign Trade Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz. Ideas were exchanged on the possibility of further increasing trade between the two countries.

Trade Union General Council Plenum Held

AU181011 Tirana ATA in English
0930 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Tirana, February 18 (ATA)—On February 17, the plenum of the General Council of the Trade Unions of Albania convened in one of the halls of the Palace of Congresses in Tirana.

Attending were also Comrade Foto Cami, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the party; Comrade Rita Marko, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the party and vice president of the Presidium of the People's assembly; and other comrades.

The report delivered by the president of the General Council of the TUA, Sotir Kocollari, and the contributions of those present brought to the fore the good work of the trade unions organizations in the coal and copper mines, ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, the engineering and chemical industry, and of some enterprises of light and foodstuff industry, where as a result of the mobilization to implement the tasks of the 9th Congress of the Party and Comrade Ramiz Alia's instructions the planned tasks of January were successfully fulfilled.

Then Comrade Foto Cami took the floor.

Diplomat's Expulsion From Sweden Protested

*AU182051 Sofia BTA in English
1955 GMT 18 Feb 88*

["At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, February 18 (BTA)—The Swedish ambassador in Sofia was called to the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry today and was handed a note expressing protest over the Swedish authorities' recent actions against officials of the Bulgarian Embassy in Stockholm.

The document states that the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry categorically refutes the Swedish authorities' allegations that Bulgarian diplomats have been employed in activities incompatible with their diplomatic status. Moreover, no evidence has been presented to support these allegations.

The document notes that in spite of Sweden's repeated assurances of its desire and readiness to further develop its relations with Bulgaria, actions are now being taken which run counter to these assurances and do not serve the common interests of the two countries.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs protests against the Swedish authorities' actions in respect to the Bulgarian officials at the embassy in Stockholm and reserves for itself the right to draw the necessary conclusions and to take corresponding measures.

Balkan Conference Previewed by Officials

Mladenov Meets SFRY Envoy

*LD191225 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1037 GMT 19 Feb 88*

[Text] Sofia, 19 Feb (TANJUG)—Prior to his departure for Belgrade where he is to attend a meeting of the Balkan countries foreign ministers from 24 to 26 February, Bulgarian Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov received Yugoslav Ambassador in Sofia Milenko Stefanovic.

Attention was focused on the efforts the two countries have been investing in a desire to ensure that the ministerial meeting in Belgrade opens up new scope for cooperation among the Balkan states in political, economic, cultural, and other areas of common interest.

Minister Mladenov stressed that he expects to hold constructive talks in Belgrade in which, in his view, priority should be given to the issues of security and ways of enhancing mutual trust between the region's countries whose geographical proximity also provides favorable opportunities for more active cooperation, especially in the economic area.

Of course, the Bulgarian foreign minister emphasized, the Belgrade meeting cannot be expected to provide answers to all the existing issues and we must therefore work towards establishing a tradition of top-level political meetings.

Ganev Gives News Conference

*AU181408 Sofia BTA in English
1322 GMT 18 Feb 88*

["Bulgaria's Position at the Belgrade Meeting"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, February 18 (BTA)—We believe that the forthcoming meeting of the Balkan countries' foreign ministers in Belgrade may give a strong impetus to the development of the positive tendencies in the development of the situation in the Balkans, said Mr Ivan Ganev, deputy minister of foreign affairs of Bulgaria.

Speaking at a press conference today about Bulgaria's position at this meeting, Mr Ganev emphasized this country's readiness to contribute to the success of the meeting and to the constructive dialogue. "This is what the Balkan peoples are looking forward to," said he.

"We are convinced that this forum, first of its kind, may set the beginning of a qualitatively new stage in the regional cooperation and may broaden the ideas and initiatives of mutual interest."

Expressing the conviction that the Yugoslav hosts and the other delegations will make concrete proposals for the further development of the multilateral cooperation in the Balkans, Mr Ivan Ganev declared Bulgaria's willingness to support each and every initiative or idea which corresponds to the requirements of our time and is acceptable to all participants.

According to the Bulgarian side attention should be focused on those measures on the adoption of which progress has already been made. "We believe that there is a readiness to view current realities from the point of view of understanding and good-neighbor relations," said Mr Ganev.

Bulgaria will again put forward some of her initiatives announced in previous years which are aimed at strengthening confidence and security, and could improve stability and encourage disarmament in this part of the world.

Chief among them is the idea to turn the Balkans into a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons. The ridding of the Balkans of these armaments would improve confidence and would give an impetus to disarmament in the world.

The problem of the Balkans' ecological protection is becoming ever more acute. It could be one of the central topics of discussion at the meeting. "We have sufficient arguments in favor of the adoption of practical steps forward toward the realization of the Bulgarian initiative on the signing of a document on the ecological protection of the Balkans," said Mr Ganev.

The deputy foreign minister announced that the preliminary consultations indicate that the economic cooperation will be given special priority at the talks in Belgrade. The most promising fields for cooperation are the exchange of technologies, joint production ventures, power generation, communications, transport, etc. Progress in these fields would allow the Balkan countries to broaden their business contacts even further with the rest of Europe.

Mr Ganev added that the Belgrade meeting will discuss the cooperation in the cultural, humanitarian and sports spheres. Other topics for discussion will be the increased communications between the Balkan peoples, the improvement of the visa regulations, the exchange of cultural values, etc.

Mr Ivan Ganev recalled that Bulgaria was one of the first countries to welcome the idea to hold this meeting in Belgrade. "In doing so we were guided by long-term goals. Bulgaria is for the development of cooperation in all fields in which there is common interest," said he.

Mr Ganev said that the Belgrade meeting may, given the necessary goodwill and responsibility, make a psychological breakthrough, it may strengthen the positive tendencies in the Balkans and may improve the Balkan countries' prestige in the European and world public's eyes.

Replying to a question, Mr Ganev said that a successful outcome of this meeting may create the conditions for the holding of a summit meeting at a later stage, as was proposed by State Council President Todor Zhivkov in 1981.

BCP Daily Previews Meeting

AU181912 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 17 Feb 88 p 7

[Svetozar Tsonkov: "Important Prerequisite for Good-Neighborly Relations and Progress"]

[Text] A meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs from the Balkan countries will take place in the capital of Yugoslavia from 24 through 26 February 1988. It will discuss important problems pertaining to the future of this area and to the multilateral cooperation among Balkan states in various realms of life. This will be the first such meeting in Balkan history and it is expected to contribute to the establishment of an atmosphere of greater confidence and security, as well as to contribute to the development of good- neighbor relations and understanding among the Balkan states.

Detente in the seventies produced a dynamic development of economic relations among Balkan countries. Within only 4 years (1973-1977) the volume of mutual trade exceeded the amount of trade exchange attained during the two preceeding decades. In bilateral relations more progressive, new forms of economic cooperation emerged. Meetings of experts from Balkan countries were held for the purpose of discussing problems of mutual interest pertaining to various spheres: on economic and technical questions (1976 in Athens), on problems of communications and long-distance communications (1979 in Ankara), on transportation questions (1981 in Sofia), on energy and power supply resources (1982 in Bucharest) and on issues pertaining to opportunities, forms, and means of development of long-term industrial production sharing and specialization, including the cooperation of Balkan countries in third markets (1984 in Belgrade).

The interests of all Balkan states are now focused on the further expansion and intensification of economic relations. Not only geographical, but other factors, as well, are favorable pre-conditions for this, especially factors chiefly pertaining to the ascending development of the Balkan countries' national economies, of countries which were transformed from agrarian into industrial-agrarian states. The trend toward an extensive and active participation of the Balkan states in the international division of labor is more and more clearly emerging, and this includes the internationalization of economic relations. The aspiration for increasing the volume of more updated goods is becoming more pronounced. New forms of production and trade are searched for and production sharing in machine building, as well as chemical industry, and in the supply of complete installations and engineering services, for example, is being practiced. Research conducted in Bulgaria shows that from one fourth to one third of Bulgaria's total trade exchange volume with Romania, Yugoslavia, Greece, and Turkey is covered by this form of cooperation. Transportation, tourism, and the energy sector are emerging as promising spheres of future cooperation. In the last few years joint ferryboat lines were established from Bulgaria, Greece, and Syria, which were connected with Albania and Yugoslavia, an airline connection between Athens and Tirana was established, and so forth.

Economic progress is the task and goal of the governments of the Balkan states. Despite the fact, that the Balkans have not yet developed as an independent economic region, and none of the countries situated in this area can resolve its own economic and scientific-technical problems within the framework of Balkan cooperation, the development and intensification of economic relations can considerably contribute to a partial solution of these problems. This is why, our country regards economic cooperation in the Balkans as an important prerequisite for prosperity and, simultaneously, as a favorable pre-condition for the consolidation of good-neighbor relations in this area. The specific nature of economic relations determines the relative stability of these relations, endowes them with specific meaning, and creates a broad, future-oriented basis for the comprehensive development of cooperation in the Balkans.

In analyzing the facts, which determine the level attained in Balkan cooperation, we have unmistakably discovered that those favorable conditions provided by our geographical location and by the increased opportunities of our national economies are being underutilized. The existing possibilities for expanding and intensifying technological, production-technical, and scientific-technical cooperation among Balkan states have not yet been utilized. It will be useful, on the basis of mutual interest, to adopt decisive measures for a broad utilization of all opportunities made available by the wide range of forms and trends of economic cooperation, by the establishment of new types of inter-state organizations, associations, and institutions, which will increase the exchange of information, technologies, and new productions.

The creation of an atmosphere of mutual confidence among partners is the main prerequisite for a further development of cooperation in the Balkans. History has destined us to live as neighbors. The present determines the responsibility that should be assumed for the future of our relations. Therefore, we do not need only good wishes, but joint actions, above all. We need resolute, purposeful, and concrete measures in the interest of all Balkan peoples.

Youth Daily Views Forum

AU171226 Sofia NARODNA MLADEZH in Bulgarian 16 Feb 88 p 3

[Zvetan Zvetanov article: "With the Strength of Political Common Sense"]

[Text] Only a few days time the meeting of Balkan states' foreign ministers will begin. It will take place from 24 through 26 February 1988 in the Yugoslav capital Belgrade. The news agencies have already announced that all Balkan countries have confirmed that they will participate in this first political forum of its kind to be held on our peninsula, which at one time had the notorious reputation of being the "powder keg" of Europe.

In accordance with the agreements reached the meeting will be devoted to multilateral cooperation in the economic, energy, agricultural, scientific, cultural, and educational sectors, in the areas of tourism, sports, and ecology. Bilateral relations between individual Balkan states will not be touched upon. A basis for the implementation of a useful and well-intentioned dialogue among the Balkan diplomatic leaders already exists. This dialogue can greatly contribute to the improvement of the general political atmosphere on the Balkans, and on the European Continent, as a whole.

Against the background of optimistic forecasts that the meeting will be the initial stage of a period in which more extensive cooperation, mutual confidence, and good-neighbor relations among Balkan countries and more mutual understanding should prevail, our country's special contribution to the successful organization of this meeting is clearly defined. The Bulgarian contribution is specified in the widely known proposals to transform the Balkan peninsula into a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons, and in the initiative for the ecological protection of this area, which evoked universal approval and has achieved great popularity. Is it possible that, in our lifetime, we may become the contemporaries and witnesses of the implementation of the idea to establish a nuclear-free zone in the Balkans, which received a powerful impetus with Comrade Todor Zhivkov's proposal submitted on 20 October 1981, and was later further developed by the joint initiative of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the SR of Romania on establishing not only a nuclear-free zone but also a zone free of chemical weapons in the Balkans?

According to international law, a nuclear-free zone represents a partly demilitarized area, or territory, in which under an international or national legal act recognized by the nuclear powers the production, storage, supply, transportation, and use of nuclear weapons, and the means, equipment, and installations for their supplies and servicing are banned. As it appears from this definition, the basic purpose of establishing a nuclear-free zone is to achieve a territorial limitation of the production, deployment, and use of nuclear weapons. Individual countries, groups of states, and even entire continents, and whole geographical areas are entitled to assume obligations in connection with establishing zones free of nuclear arms. Agreements on the creation of such zones, however, must firmly guarantee that the area in question will remain free of any nuclear weapons, while the countries possessing such weapons must commit themselves strictly to observe and respect the nuclear-free status of countries belonging to these zones. It is exceptionally important, in this context, to organize a smoothly operating and efficient system of international control and investigations as regards the observance of the adopted status of the zones in question.

A number of nuclear-free zones exist today which have been proclaimed on the basis of an international treaty: These include the Antarctic, the seabed of the world's oceans, the moon, and other planets, as well as outer space. Over 20 years ago, in 1967, the Tlaltelolco Treaty, which declared Latin America a nuclear-free zone, was signed. This was the first such zone to be established in a densely populated area of the earth. Another nuclear-free zone was established in the South Pacific (based on the Rorotonga Treaty), but despite the firmly expressed will of the peoples inhabiting this area, only the USSR and the PRC recognize this status, while the imperialist states persist in violating it. This fact demonstrates that mankind has accumulated experience in this field and that the implementation of the mature idea about transforming the Balkans into a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons is absolutely feasible.

There is no doubt that the path toward this lofty goal is quite complicated and far from smooth. It requires very serious preparations and demands that numerous obstacles and doubts accumulated from the past should be overcome. However, it is the only path defining the restructuring process which will increasingly characterize relations among Balkan countries and peoples on the basis of mutual confidence, sovereign equality, and equal security. The contemporary international situation, which is characterized by the prevalence of a new political thinking created by the Soviet Union and the socialist community, is favorably influencing the progress along this path.

In his speech delivered in Murmansk on 1 October 1987 Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, proposed the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in Northern Europe and confirmed the wholehearted readiness of the USSR, as a nuclear state, to discuss the problems pertaining to the establishment of nuclear-free zones in Europe with all interested countries.

Hence—let us repeat the question: Are we going to witness the first nuclear zone in Europe, in our life-time, and will it be established in the Balkans? The answer to this question lies in the strength of political common sense, and the forthcoming Belgrade meeting, which we all are expecting to be successful, represents one of the results and achievements of this political common sense.

Tanchev Activities in Italy Reported

AU190923 Sofia BTA in English
0800 GMT 19 Feb 88

["For Development of Bulgaro-Italian Relations"—BTA headline]

[Text] Rome, February 19 (BTA corr.)—Talks between a delegation of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party headed by Mr. Petur Tanchev, chairman of the party and first vice president of the State Council of Bulgaria, and a delegation of the Italian Christian Democratic Party, headed by Senator Giulio Orlando, chairman of its Foreign Policy Commission. Satisfaction was expressed over the development of the ties between the two parties and willingness was voiced for their further deepening. The Italian side pointed out that this first visit of a delegation of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party (BZNS) to Italy at the invitation of the Christian Democratic Party will cooperate for broadening of the contacts which would contribute to the enrichment of the Bulgaro-Italian relations in the political, economic and cultural sphere.

During the talks it was stressed that the visit of Mr. Todor Zhivkov, Bulgaria's State Council president, in Italy in 1975, is of great importance for the activation of the Bulgaro-Italian cooperation.

A new page is opened in the relations between Bulgaria and Italy, which have overcome a difficult period recently. This fact is supported by the visit in Bulgaria of Italy's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Giulio Andreotti, in the beginning of 1987. Bulgaria's consistent peaceloving policy for goodneighbour relations and cooperation in the Balkans was stressed during the meeting. Peace has been reigning in the Balkans for the last four decades, a region where a number of European wars have started in the past, something new in the history of the peninsula and of the continent. An expression of the positive processes in the Balkans is also the forthcoming meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs of the countries from this region.

The representatives of the Christian Democatic Party assessed highly the achievements and the peaceful policy of Bulgaria. They expressed respect for the contribution and the active international activity of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party. The two sides voiced the opinion that the consolidation of the Bulgaro-Italian relations contributes to the development of the Helsinki process, to the East-West dialogue.

It was pointed out at the meeting that today new approaches and criteria are necessery in international relations. The Italian side pointed out the great importance of the restructuring in the Soviet Union, which is related to the restructuring in the international relations. Exceptional contribution for the new political thinking, for the new philosophy of peace, for finding of mutually acceptable solutions have the Soviet peace initiatives. [sentence as received]

The delegations of the BZNS and of the Christian Democratic Party greeted the Soviet American meeting in Washington and the INF Treaty, as an important success of reason and political realism which create new situation in the world and open new opportunities for further steps toward disarmament.

The two sides stressed the need of lessening of the military opposition in Europe, of enhancement of the contacts and dialogue as a true road toward healing of the political climate in the continent.

It was pointed out that ever more increases the role, responsibility and potential of the democratic parties and organizations for cooperation in support of the struggle for understanding, democracy and social advance.

The secretary of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party and first vice president of the State Council had a meeting with Ms Leonilde Iotti, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament, who is also member of the leadership of the Italian Communist Party.

The two politicians emphasized the role of parliaments in the strengthening of peace. They agreed on the need to further broaden the contacts between the parliaments of Bulgaria and Italy which will promote both the bilateral cooperation, and confidence and understanding in the world.

During Mr Tanchev's meeting with Mr Flaminio Piccoli, president of the International Union of the Christian Democratic Parties and chairman of the Foreign Policy Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, the two politicians discussed the contacts between the Bulgarian Agrarian Party and the Italian Christian Democratic Party.

Balev, Delegation Attend Madrid CP Congress

AU182054 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian
2030 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] A BCP delegation led by Comrade Milko Balev left today for Madrid at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Spanish Communist Party. It will take part in the 12th Congress of the Spanish Communist Party.

Balev Meets Party Officials

AU182053 Sofia BTA in English
2010 GMT 18 Feb 88

["Milko Balev's Meetings in Madrid"—BTA headline]]

[Text] Madrid, February 18 (BTA correspondent)—Mr Milko Balev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the BCP CC, who is also heading the Bulgarian Communist Party's delegation to the 12th Congress of the Spanish Communist Party, handed Mr Marcelino Camacho, chairman of the Trade Union Confederation of the Workers' Commissions, the Narodna Republika Bulgariya First Class Order for his contribution to the development of the cooperation between the two countries' trade unions and in connection with his 70th birthday.

Mr Milko Balev also had a meeting with Ms Elena Florez, member of the Executive Commission and secretary for international affairs of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party. The two politicians exchanged views on a broad range of issues of common interest and expressed the desire to further develop the relations between the two parties.

Mr Milko Balev had a meeting today with Mr Luis Fajardo, chairman of the Foreign Policy commission of the Congress of Deputies.

Gotsev Holds Political Talks in Lisbon

AU182052 Sofia BTA in English
2005 GMT 18 Feb 88

["Bulgaria, Portugal: Political Consultations"—BTA headline]

[Text] Lisbon, February 18 (BTA)—The political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria and Portugal ended here.

During the discussion of the bilateral relations it was pointed out that favourable opportunities exist for their further development in the sphere of trade, economic and cultural cooperation.

The head of the Bulgarian delegation, Mr Lyuben Gotsev, deputy minister of foreign affairs, expressed the willingness of the Bulgarian side for activation of the dialogue in the political sphere on a higher level.

The two sides reviewed the situation in Europe after the signing of the Soviet-American INF Treaty. It was noted with satisfaction that there are favourable possibilities for development of a more intensive and mutually advantageous cooperation in all spheres on the basis of the mutual interests of the European states.

The two sides exchanged views on certain general and regional questions of international relations. Special attention was paid to the crisis in the Middle East. The two delegations stressed the need of convening of an international conference for its solution.

Mr Lyuben Gotsev was received by Mr Antonio Patrisio, chief secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal.

Chief Mufti Voices Support For Palestinians

AU181545 Sofia BTA in English
1507 GMT 18 Feb 88

["Declaration of the Chief Mufti's Office of the Bulgarian Muslims"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, February 18 (BTA)—The Chief Mufti's Office expresses the Bulgarian Muslims' full support for the struggle of their brothers in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands, for their brave fight for the freedom of their country, reads a declaration released for publication.

According to the document, the Bulgarian Muslims are condemning Israel's policy of expansion and aggression. As a result of this policy an entire people of great history and culture has been deprived of its sacred right of having its own motherland and has been forced to live under the conditions of foreign occupation or exile.

Innocent people are again dying in the Israeli-occupied lands. The Israeli occupiers are trying to stop the just struggle of the Muslims with the help of tear gas, bullets and atrocities.

The declaration expresses indignation over the fact that Israeli soldiers have desecrated the El-Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem, one of the holiest places for Islam. This is a barbarous act which has hurt the religious feelings of all Muslims. The Bulgarian Muslims raise their voice in protest and demand the stopping of the severe repressions against their Arab brothers in the Israeli-occupied territories. They call for the immediate termination of all acts of desecration of Muslim holy places and for the finding of a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem through the calling of an international conference.

International Journalist Meeting in Sofia

AU052209 Sofia BTA in English
1905 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Sofia, February 5 (BTA)—The IOJ Committee for Social Issues will do everything possible for the raising and the solution of the important social problems of the journalistic profession, the participants in the first session of the committee which ended here today stressed. They also pointed to the necessity of upgrading the role of the professional journalist in society, of promoting and establishing in the world of progressive and assertive journalism which champions peace and understanding among the peoples and of a new informational order.

The two-day session was attended by representatives of 10 national journalists' organizations. It was presided over by the chairman of the committee, Boyan Traykov, deputy chairman of the IOJ.

The participants elected a bureau of the committee and adopted statutes and plans for its activities.

A special declaration of the committee appeals to all democratic journalists in the world to solidarize with their Palestinian colleagues, who are performing their professional duties in exceptionally difficult conditions of mass repressions and persecutions on the part of the Israeli occupiers.

The guests were informed of the work and the resolutions of the BCP National Conference.

Mass Media Role in Restructuring Encouraged

AU170944 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian
12 Feb 88 p 5

Article by Lyubomir Pavlov, chairman of the Television and Radio Committee: "Nationwide Tribune of Restructuring"]

[Excerpts] Television and radio are among the basic ideological and cultural-educational institutions. All our activities are connected with the ideological, political, moral, and esthetic education of the working people, our youth, and children.

The discussion about restructuring and the further construction of socialism in the People's Republic of Bulgaria took at the BCP National Conference was an exceptionally important theoretical-ideological task involving great responsibility and calling for prompt practical solutions. The questions pertaining to self-management and democratization require the establishment of all necessary conditions for a real and conscious participation of millions of working people from all social strata in the administration of the country. For us this means that the people should participate more actively in television and radio programs. Our goal is to have radio and television become a nationwide tribune for the discussion on the state and problems of restructuring, for substantiating our experience, developing new ideas, and directing the people's wisdom, knowledge, and experience to the higher party and state organs. [passage omitted]

Through radio and television we are not only trying to comment on restructuring problems, but to analyze them thoroughly and restructure our own work. The overwhelming majority of those engaged in television and radio work are coping conscientiously and with every conviction with their responsible tasks as journalists, and thus, with their party and ideological tasks as well. We know from our own experience how difficult and controversial this process can be.

We are able to convince ourselves daily how necessary and difficult it is to combine glasnost and criticism with responsibility for everything that has been said. We know how much detailed and intensive research is required on every occasion, whenever we receive a tip from viewers and listeners, before we start using the microphone and the camera, before we pronounce our evaluations. Nevertheless, there is no other way to win the people's confidence! I think that were are just at the beginning of this difficult process. Some journalists were used to seeing life and newly emerging processes only in black and white. We have no intention of looking at everything only through rose-colored glasses, because we have had to pay for this bad habit. It is high time to look at life normally, with knowing eyes, in order to perceive all colors and shades, all bright and dark spots, to see and reflect life in all its wealth and diversity.

As many as three party congresses (the 11th, 12th, and 13th), and two BCP national conferences, including the most recent one, were covered in their entirety by television and radio live relays. This is an essential element of consistency and continuity pertaining to all positive trends in the April plenum traditions. There are no secrets between party and people as total mutual confidence exists between them. Thanks to radio and television, our entire people were able to follow and participate in the work of the BCP National Conference. Together with the Bulgarian people, however, dozens of journalists from socialist and Western countries who had come specially to report on the work of the conference, had an opportunity to follow it.

Numerous administrative and economic leaders are shunning criticism. They fail to implement party and government decisions on dealing with critical remarks appearing in the press and on the radio and television, sometimes they wait several months before reacting to critical programs. They are in favor of verbal criticism as long as they are not bothered. It is true that some journalists, as well, are not sufficiently mastering the dialectics of new and old approaches, of great and "small" justice in life, and fail to report on those collectives that are engaged in honest work and justify positive assessments and optimistic forecasts. They prefer to pay attention to obviously insincere, illusory, and utopian pledges of other collectives, following severely critical remarks made about them in radio and television programs. Nevertheless an ever increasing number of journalists exists who evoke our admiration by openly unveiling the causes of existing shortcomings and inexorably struggling against them from the position and for the sake of the socialist ideal. Experience shows that we have neither the intention nor any reason to give up our severely critical but constructive programs directed against all obstacles to restructuring. [passage omitted]

Although I do not underestimate in the least the tasks and opportunities of all other ideological and cultural institutions I think that radio and television have great opportunities and thus great responsibilities in the intellectual realm. Certain state and economic leaders must stop underestimating the intellectual sphere as soon as possible. [passage omitted]. It is particularly important to be aware of the role played by radio and television as some of the greatest sources of artistic and other cultural values, and as the most powerful disseminators of such assets, particularly in the area of music, film, and dramatic art. It is a well-known fact that, when the scale of values is uniform, when the ideological-artistic criteria are both noble and unanimously accepted, and when the evaluation of cultural achievements is uniform, our efforts and the results of our work will be purposeful and lasting.

BCP Commission Restores Party Memberships

AU171227 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 16 Feb 88 p 6

[RABOTNICHESKO DELO's own report: "Accuracy and Objectivity in Pronouncing Sanctions"]

[Text] Yesterday the Bureau of the BCP Central Control-Auditing Commission held a meeting under the leadership of Nacho Papazov, chairman of the commission. The meeting reviewed petitions and objections against sanctions submitted by punished party members.

The sanction of "severe reprimand and warning" pronounced against Nikola Rizov from Kyustendil, who as chairman of the Osogovo labor production cooperative, caused a split in the basic party organization and the collective resulting from his incorrect style of work, suppressed criticism, and failed to pay his membership dues in full, was confirmed.

The membership of Todor Angelov, who as director of the Panagyurishte industrial combine, was unjustifiably expelled from the party in 1953, was restored and his term of service in the party will be fully accounted for without interruption.

The sanctions against Dimitur Chernev from Ruzhevo Konare village in Plovdiv Oblast, who was unjustifiably expelled from the party, and the "reprobation" ["poritsanie"] against Stefan Kerezov from the town of Sopot were cancelled.

The sanction of expulsion from the party against Todor Andonov from Velingrad, Boris Mitev and Nikola Stoyanov from Golyam Vurbovnik village, Sofia Oblast, was amended to "severe reprimand and warning". The sentence of "severe reprimand and warning" against Nikola Pochinkov from Sofia and Todor Banchev from Zlatiya village in Mikhailovgrad Oblast was amended to "reprobation", while the sanction of "severe reprimand and warning" against Penka Nencheva from Lovech was amended to "reprimand".

The cases discussed at the forum posed various problems. Some of them deserve particular attention, including the occasional lack of complete objectivity and accuracy in defining and evaluating the circumstances in connection with pronouncing a given party member as guilty. This sometimes reflects the tendency of party organs and organizations to be carried away by a preference for exerting the party's punitive functions, instead of emphasizing the preventive and educational functions. This is becoming even more important under the circumstances of the restructuring process, because justice and respect for the individual and his dignity have a direct impact upon his labor performance and his political activities. Naturally, this should by no means diminish the Communist's personal responsibility for his own actions.

Party Dailies Carry Anti-Church Series

AU171141 [Editorial Report] Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak on 10 February on page 3, and on 11 and 12 February on pages 4, publishes a three-part series of articles by Andrej Dobry, totaling 7,000 words, entitled "'Secret Church' in the Service of Anticommunism." RUDE PRAVO in Czech on 11 and 12 February carries an abbreviated, 6,000-word version of the series.

Dobry introduces the first article, entitled "Posthumous Children of Slovak Clericalist Fascism," by saying that Bratislava PRAVDA readers had "reacted with lively interest" to articles dealing with "illegal church organizations and their relations with emigre and other clericalist anticommunist organizations" and, in particular, to the article "Belated Remorse," which PRAVDA published on 24 November 1987. In a letter, Dobry says, readers asked for a "more specific clarification of the essence of illegal church structures, their organizers, and allies," and wanted to know "who has an interest in the misuse of religion."

Dobry states that the "origin of illegal church structures" goes back to the period of the final years of World War II, when the representatives of the clericalist-fascist Slovak State expected that the church would be banned after the victory of the revolutionary antifascist forces and "driven into illegality." These "illegal church structures had a provocative character and, in some cases, even the nature of antistate organizations in the postwar years."

In the 1968-69 years of crisis, these structures "revealed the secrecy of their activities, and as a fellow traveller of the other antisocialist forces they took an active part in the preparations for counterrevolution within the framework of the work of the Council Revival [Dielo koncilovej obnovy] Organization and the Slovak Organization for the Protection of Human Rights. After the counterrevolution failed, external and domestic clericalist forces tried again to activate the illegal church structures and orient them toward thwarting the consolidation of society," Dobry says.

It is mostly the "secretly ordained church dignitaries, friars, and laymen, who to this day have not parted with the clericalist-fascist ideology and policy" that are joining the activity of the illegal church structures. The organizers of these structures are "trying to win over little-experienced individuals for their wicked goals, especially from the ranks of young people, who are often incapable of discerning the dangerous nature of clericalist propaganda," and become an instrument for disseminating political clericalism.

At present, Dobry continues, the activity of the illegal church structures is concentrating, "in particular, on the preparation of disinformation for an anticommunist, anti-Czechoslovak campaign; on the elimination of the clergymen's and believers' loyal relationship toward the socialist system; on slandering party and state functionaries and provoking dissatisfaction," and so forth.

These "illegal church structures" consist of small groups, and their composition is generally known within the range of their activity. They have "certain financial resources and reproduction technology at their disposal," Dobry states, adding that "in their activities they are making the use of, above all, legal means, which they, to a considerable degree, complement by illegal means of activity. What is involved is a sort of parallel unofficial church organization, directed and generously funded from abroad, closely connected with the ideology and the politics of the clericalist-fascist state and the clericalist-nationalist emigrees. This experience is most convincingly documented, he says, by the so-called "samizdats," the illegal written materials, which the clericalist-nationalist emigrees are passing off as a display of Catholic opposition against the socialist system.

One of the "insidious methods" of the illegal church structures is that they depict any positive measures which are the result of the good cooperation between the "legal church hierarchy" and the agencies of the socialist state as being due to them, due to their "'pressure.'" From the very beginning, these illegal church structures were and are an instrument of the anticommunist, anti-Czechoslovak forces abroad, Dobry says.

The remainder of the first article describes the anticommunist activities by Slovak clericalist fascists at home and abroad and the cooperation between "Slovak clericalist-nationalist emigrees and the illegal church structures."

The second article is entitled "Who is Pavol Cernogursky?" and provides a detailed biograph of this "Hlinkaist, Guardist, and Aryanizer," who was high up in the hierarchy of the fascist Slovak State during World War II, and mentions the activities of his son, also named Pavol Cernogursky, who "emigrated" to Canada in 1968, and is currently chairman of the Human Rights Commission of the anticommunist World Congress of Slovaks.

The last part of the series, entitled "Our People Can Tell Light From Darkness," contains the following passage criticizing Prague Archbishop Frantisek Tomasek.

Dobry says that Pavol Cernogursky and his "accomplices" from the "illegal church" structures and from among emigrees are working for the world reaction, which is trying to transform religious organizations into a political instrument of struggle against socialism. Certain circles in the West are exerting pressure on churches in Czechoslovakia to intensify not only their religious, but, in particular, also their political-clericalist activity. In addition to financial support and encouraging domestic clericalist forces to undertake antisocialist activities, they are intensifying through these clericalist forces the pressure on clergymen who are loyal to the socialist system to abandon this course and follow the militant opponents of socialism, Dobry says.

However, whoever wants to misuse religion or church as a political instrument for class antisocialist struggles and manipulate believers and their religious convictions in that respect should realize that he will not find scope for such activity in Czechoslovakia, Dobry says, adding that the "line of confrontation is alien to our socialist state. And whoever would want to foist it upon us must expect consequences."

"Members of the illegal structures are currently doing all they can to thwart an agreement between our state and the Vatican. Their wish is to get their representatives into the vacant bishoprics, such as the 'secret bishop' Korec, for example. It is no coincidence that during the pilgrimage to Sastin last year, a recording of a Voice of America was broadcast in the church, in which this anticommunist fanatic sang praises of himself. That upset many believers. When among themselves, representatives of the illegal structures are also maliciously gossiping about representatives of the Vatican, accusing them of insufficient 'toughness.' Ludakist [Slovak Fascist Party during World War II] emigre nationalists criticize the conditions in the Nepomucenum in Rome, saying that the Czechs rule there. The president of the World Congress of Slovaks, Stefan Roman himself, had to defend Cardinal Tomasek, in whom they discovered a 'little Hussite soul,'" Dobry says.

"At the end of 1987 and the beginning of 1988, representatives of the illegal structures launched a signature campaign among believers in Slovakia, the purpose of which was to disturb the course of the talks between representatives of the Czechoslovak state and the Vatican delegation, headed by Nuntius F. Colasuonno. Many signatures were forgeries, some were obtained by a swindle. In many cases the organizers tricked believers by presenting the entire campaign as if it was realized in harmony with our legal order and with the assent of our state agencies. A typical element of that action is also its direct support by Cardinal Tomasek. For this reason he sent to Slovakia individuals who helped to organize the campaign and who 'obtained' signatures through forging them or by letting people sign blank sheets of paper. It is understandable that also Slovak church ordinaries protested against this high-handedness. Regarding the organizers of that action, they are—in their majority—people about whom not even the U.S. Government has doubts that they are in favor of the violation of the CSSR territorial integrity, rehabilitation of Dr Tiso [the president of the World War II Slovak State], and who glorify the clericalist-fascist Slovak State. Thus their activity in this signature campaign is only a camouflage for their antistate activity. Thus the following question is justified: Is it possible to believe that a leading church official would not know with whom he is dealing?" Dobry asks.

"The overwhelming majority of believers, including clergymen, stand firmly behind the values of the socialist system and the united Czechoslovak Republic." In the light of historical experience, the demand of our people is fully justified that the newly appointed bishops must have nothing in common with with the ideology and practices of Slovak clericalist fascism, the Ludakist emigrees abroad, and must be loyal to the socialist state, Dobry states.

"Political clericalism has objectively lost its place in Czechoslovakia. Only a few incorrigible individuals dream about its revival. These self-appointed representatives of a nonexistent antisocialist opposition have nothing in common with the majority of believers, who have accepted socialism and tied their lives with it because it has become enshrined in their conscience as the most progressive and most humane social system," Dobry says.

Jakes Attends Victorious February Ceremony

LD190139 Prague CTK in English
1946 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Prague Feb 18 (CTK)—Veteran members of the Czechoslovak Communist Party from Prague today held a meeting marking the 40th anniversary of the victory of the working class in Czechoslovakia in February 1948.

The period since February 1948 has been internally and internationally complex for us, General Secretary Milos Jakes told the Communists who joined the party before World War II.

There were problems and errors, and also violations of law. We have drawn conclusions and taken a lesson which must be constantly remembered, Milos Jakes said and stressed that any attempts to stage an "anti-February," similar to those made in 1968, will not succeed. We will be sufficiently on our guard to discern such attempts in time and thwart them, the general secretary added.

Speaking about restructuring, he noted that it must be aimed at the consolidation of socialism and enhancement of its principles in society and in the life of the people. This is the purpose of what we are doing. The Communist Party must be at the head of this struggle, the general secretary said.

He added that the chief aim of the party is to mobilize people and explain to them the Communist Party line so that they believe it, correctly understand it, and actively participate in its implementation. Milos Jakes voiced the conviction that the veteran members of the party will help promote this aim.

The meeting was also addressed by head secretary of the party's city committee in Prague Antonin Kapek. He noted that Prague industry now puts out in three weeks the equivalent of what it produced in 1949 in a year. In the 1949-1987 period Prague inhabitants received

238,500 new flats. The system of public transport has been completely rebuilt and the underground railway now has lines of a total of 40 km.

Jakes Sees Society 'Awakening' Politically

LD190127 Prague Domestic Service in Czech
2030 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Attended by Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, meritorious Prague members of the CPCZ met today at Mayakovskiy Hall of the Central Cultural House of Railwaymen in Prague. The most active ones received commemorative medals from the city party committee for their meritorious work for society. At the conclusion of this meeting on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of victorious February, Stanislav Benda asked Comrade Milos Jakes for an interview:

[Benda] How did this meeting influence you? Tell me about the tremendous vitality of the prewar Communists.

[Jakes] I think that all the comrades that gathered here set an example by their vitality, faithfulness to Marxism-Leninism, conviction about the correctness of their cause. They are setting an example in the complicated battle that we are waging today.

[Benda] You recently visited the working people in many places in our republic. You heard their views. You can see that interst in what is happening around them is growing. Sometimes their words are fairly critical, like those in the shale and coal enterprise during your visit on Tuesday. How do you assess the activity of our working people?

[Jakes] I would say that society is awakening politically. This concerns all the strata. In particular, I am glad to note that it also concerns young people. Very simply, people began to get much more deeply interested in all questions of the development and life of society. That is the first prerequisite for them to take an active part in restructuring. What is good is that we are meeting everywhere with great support for the policy we set out at the congress, and in particular, worked out at the December session of the party Central Committee and the appeals not to get stuck halfway. This, for us, represents a certain kind of incentive, so that we may enhance the effort on all the questions to be clarified and so that restructuring may be implemented correctly in practice so that it will bring what we are expecting from it: increasing efficiency in the national economy and the creation of conditions for further improving socialism, social security, and a better life for the people.

[Benda] Thank you for the interview.

Polednik Lauds Socialist Party as CPCZ Ally

AU111225 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
5 Feb 88 p 2

["(KJ)"-signed report: "Fulfilling the Legacy of February; From the Session of the Czechoslovak Socialist Party's Central Committee; Deliberations Attended by J. Polednik, CPCZ Central Committee Secretary"]

[Text] Prague—The members of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Socialist Party (CSS) recalled the 40th anniversary of the working people's victory over reaction in February 1948 at their Thursday [4 February] session in Prague, which was attended by a delegation of the CPCZ and CSSR National Front Central Committees, led by CPCZ Central Committee Secretary Jindrich Polednik.

Bohuslav Kucera, CSS chairman and deputy chairman of the CSSR Federal Assembly, stated that the origins of the CSS are also linked with the glorious days of February 1948. At that time the progressive members of what was originally the national socialist party (who, even previously, had been looking for ways to cooperate realistically with the progressive forces) came out into the open.

In speaking of the party's development, B. Kucera remarked that the CSS had lived through some quite difficult times of society-wide development, and survived quite a few internal problems. But the patient, creative, useful work of its members has won it a firm and recognized place in our political system, in our society.

"The CSS derives its active approach toward building socialism from the conviction that this social system is the only one to consummate the revolutionary, humanitarian, and democratic traditions running like the famous 'leitmotif' through our history. The members of the CSS are convinced that only socialism ensures real equality and freedom, real democracy—the kind of democracy which combines civic and political equality with social and economic equality," B. Kucera said.

Jindrich Polednik, CPCZ Central Committee secretary, greeted the session on behalf of the CPCZ and CSSR National Front Central Committees. He conveyed to the participants the personal greetings of Milos Jakes, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary and chairman of the CSSR National Front Central Committee, and his wishes for further successful work.

The February victory was the culmination of many years of the communist party's struggle for the working man's social, economic, and political rights and for national liberation, its antifascist struggle, its efforts to reach the goals of the national and democratic revolution.

In this fight the Communist Party was never alone. At all stages it was accompanied by the progressive members of other political parties, by outstanding representatives of our intelligentsia and our arts and science. This also applies to the days of February 1948. The CPCZ's policy was backed by the overwhelming majority of our people, and the revived National Front played a significant role in our defeating the reaction. A certain number of functionaries and many members of the former National Socialist Party also honorably contributed to this, laying the political foundations of your party, on which it could base its further work.

The 40 years of socialist construction are the result of the joint work of us all—of Communists, of people without party affiliation, of the members of other political parties. Since its inception 40 years ago, the CSS has always professed its allegiance to the program of our National Front, contributing in a dignified and effective way to social transformations and to the building of socialism.

J. Polednik then spoke of our society's current tasks (as formulated by the Seventh CPCZ Central Committee Session), particularly underscoring the need to restructure the economic mechanism, further deepen socialist democracy, and develop socialist self-management. A lot of work is also waiting for the entire National Front, he said, which continues to be the well-proven political base of the class union of working people, of the togetherness of both our nations and all our nationalities—a platform on which the Communists, all people without party affiliation, and also the members of other political parties join forces for socialist construction.

The CSSR is also faced with a significant task. The Communist Party regards it as its first and foremost ally in socialist construction.

Lenart Addresses Bratislava Aktiv

LD111448 Prague Domestic Service in Czech
0700 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Comrade Jozef Lenart spoke yesterday in the discussion at the city party aktiv in Bratislava. He emphasized the vital need to concentrate the annual members' meetings and conferences of the party on a more marked mobilization of all Communists to achieve the goals of restructuring the economic mechanism, in particular to improve the quality of production, accelerate scientific-technical development, and reduce production costs. He also recalled the important task of political parties, the social and interest organizations of the National Front in the restructuring of society and in deepening socialist democracy. Comrade Jozef Lenart also stated that further progress in our economy is dependent on more consistent and energetic implementation of the strategic line of the 17th party congress and the conclusions of the seventh Central Committee session.

Czech Government Meets, Views Restructuring

LD172232 Prague Domestic Service in Czech
1730 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] The Czech SR Government discussed at its session today some questions on the economic development, restructuring preparations for the economic mechanism and the application of scientific-technological development. Miroslav Langer reports:

[Langer] The government stressed that the deadlines set for progress in restructuring the economic mechanism are not only obligatory, but that it is desirable to meet these deadlines earlier. The government then went on to accept the principles of restructuring state enterprise organizational structures, even economic organizations, recommended by the national committees.

The recommendations urge the inclusion in the complex experiment of Pragoprojekt Praha—the Project Institute for Road and Bridge Works.

Immediately after the session, I talked to Rudolf Hegenbart, deputy chairman of the Czech Government and chairman of the Czech Commission for Scientific-Technological and Investment Development about the next points on the agenda. These included scientific-technological policy for the eighth five-year-plan up to 1995 for departments concerning the building industry, trade, forestry and water conservancy:

[Begin Recording] [Langer] Comrade deputy chairman, how are the program contents connected with the current efforts for economic intensification?

[Hegenbart] I think that at the present time, when we are discussing questions about restructuring the economy, their effectiveness will increase. It is a positive aspect to have reached the stage when they are being recognized as a basic factor for formulating further program in the economic and noneconomic spheres.

[Langer] That is the main investment. Do you, on the contrary, see some shortcomings?

[Hegenbart] Of course there are shortcomings. This year we have contributed to an open program; above all there is the important comparison with the world peak. What is lacking is determining their contributions when implemented, so that we could also suggest varying approaches, maybe even faster solutions, so that a number of these programs might bear fruit, not in the year 2000, but as early as in the nineties.

[Langer] Comrade deputy chairman, what conclusions did today's government session adopt on these programs?

[Hegenbart] The government agreed on them and adopted them as an open program, which must be—in connection with completing the forecasts—directives for long-term prospects, so that they might come into effect within a certain time. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Official Discusses Terrorism

AU181002 Prague PRACE in Czech
16 Feb 88 pp 1,3

[Interview with Doctor of Law Vladimir Jares of the CSSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, by Jiri Zavozda: "Terrorism—the Common Enemy"—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Czechoslovakia is another country which has joined the international agreement against taking hostages. The agreement is an important document which regulates the cooperation of states in the sphere of the struggle against terrorism. We asked Doctor of Law Vladimir Jares of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs for more detailed information. [passage omitted]

[Zavozda] Could you tell us the main reasons why Czechoslovakia has joined the agreement?

[Jares] Joining the agreement is in full harmony with our foreign policy line, which strives for the buildup of a comprehensive system of international security. Our attitude toward the issue of international terrorism proceeds from the principle that all forms and manifestations of terrorism are impermissible, regardless of the motives by which terrorist actions are being justified. [passage omitted]

On the whole, we can say that in many respects the agreement is more perfect than the preceeding agreements on the protection of civil aviation. Despite that, in certain cases it could be misused to refuse to extradite culprits for political reasons. However, we believe that the current efforts of states to suppress international terrorism will reduce such a possibility to the minimum.

[Zavozda] How is the prosecution of hostage-taking enshrined in our Criminal Code?

[Jares] Immediate legislative amendments are not necessary. Quite a number of regulations in the Czechoslovak Criminal Code make it possible to prosecute the criminal deed of taking hostages. However, because Czechoslovak criminal law currently does not contain a separate current state [zvlastni skutkovou podstatu] of this criminal act which would fully correspond to its definition in the agreement, an appropriate amendment is planned within the framework of the planned amendment of the criminal law.

Government Spokesmen Describe Economic Trends

LD171535 Prague CTK in English
1409 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] Prague Feb 17 (CTK)—There are two basic trends in the development of the Czechoslovak economy within the current Eighth Five-Year Plan period, Deputy Chairmen of the State Planning Commission Vaclav Vertelar and Jan Strba stressed at a news conference here today.

The creation of the national income lags behind the intentions of the plan as a result of the failure to intensify the production of all branches of the national economy. On the other hand, planned targets are being met as regards the use of the national income. An example of this is the growth of the personal consumption by four per cent over the past two years (in the whole of the Seventh Five-Year Plan period it grew only by five per cent).

The paramount tasks of the Czechoslovak national economy in 1988 are to preserve the development in the use of the national income and to solve problems of its creation. At the same time both internal and external stability must be maintained at the cost of the anticipated growth of the national income. The directive of the Eighth Five-Year Plan fixes the growth of the newly created value at 3.5 per cent, and the plan for 1988 at 2.7 per cent. Above all it is necessary to remove certain disproportions, especially to stop the growth of useless reserves. These reserves are estimated at present at about 50,000 million crowns and are to be reduced by nearly 25,000 million within the 1988 plan. The starting of construction of new projects is to be cut by 20 per cent this year, mainly as regards administrative buildings. Another serious task is to cut material costs by 1.2 per cent against last years spendings.

In its external relations, the Czechoslovak economy mainly has to preserve the positive development in trade with the socialist countries. The basic principle in relation with the capitalist states is that the country's imports must not exceed its exports.

Statistics Office Releases Economic Report

LD291740 Prague CTK in English
1620 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Prague Jan 29 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak national economy continued to develop in 1987, but at a lower rate than in previous years, the Federal Office of Statistics said in a report issued today.

Last year's plan was fulfilled in the growth of industrial and agricultural production and the building industry. The requirements for fuels and energy were met and supplies of basic foodstuffs to the home market were fluent. Personal and social consumption of the population grew as planned and several social measures were introduced. Retail prices and living costs were stable in essence.

However, intensification in production was slower than had been envisaged and the quality and technical standard of products did not rise to the desirable extent. The consumption of raw and other materials and energy was not reduced to the expected extent, the growth of stocks in industry and the building industry was not halted and the marketing of products at home and abroad was short of the plan. Although some partial good results were scored in the sphere of scientific-technological development, prerequisites were not created to the full extent for their quick application. Scientific-technological development was not the decisive factor of intensification in 1987, the report said.

The Federal Office of Statistics went on to say in its report that due to the slow progress in the intensification of the economy the rise in the created national income is expected to be over 2 per cent, i.e. less than planned.

The 1987 gross industrial production was by 2.3 per cent higher than in 1986, dynamic rate of growth came especially in the electrical engineering, engineering and chemical industries. But the slow adaptation of the structure of production to the requirements of the economy further deepened tension in the supplier-buyer relations.

As compared with 1986, building works rose by 2.1 per cent, gross farm production by 0.9 per cent, and works and supplies in capital construction by 3.7 per cent. Personal consumption of the population rose by 2.2 per cent, real incomes by 3.2 per cent and social consumption by 3.9 per cent. A total of 79,300 apartments were completed.

Also against 1986, the foreign trade turnover rose by 2.4 per cent. The turnover of trade with the socialist countries rose by 3.0 per cent and the turnover with non-socialist countries remained approximately at the same level. The effectiveness of foreign trade did not increase much. The socialist countries accounted for 79.1 per cent of the trade turnover.

Czechoslovak scientific-technological cooperation with the socialist countries was further intensified in 1987, the report of the federal office of statistics continued.

Within the framework of the comprehensive program of scientific-technological progress of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance member states up to the year 2000, Czechoslovak enterprises participated in the fulfilment of 92 main tasks in five priority spheres.

Czechoslovakia's cooperation and specialization in production with the socialist states was extended, but still existent reserves in this field must be used to increase the efficiency of the Czechoslovak economy. Products manufactured under specialization and cooperation agreements accounted for 34 per cent of exports to the socialist countries, the report said.

Deceased CPCZ CC Member Himl Buried

LD091830 Prague Domestic Service in Czech
1730 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The funeral of the deceased Antonin Himl, member of the CPCZ Central Committee and of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the National Front of Czechoslovakia, deputy to the Chamber of the Nations, member of the Presidium of the Federal Assembly, chairman of the Central Committee of Physical Education, took place today in the Great Ceremonial Hall of the Crematorium in Prague: Strasnice.

The funeral was attended by Antonin Himl's family and also by Comrades Lubomir Strougal, Ladislav Adamec, Peter Colotka, Alois Indra, Antonin Kapek, Josef Haman, Vladimir Herman, Frantisek Pitra, Jaroslav Hajn, Jindrich Polednik, Zdenek Horeni, Marie Kabrhelova, Miroslav Zavadil, and other representatives. Present were delegations of foreign physical education organizations, the international Olympic Committee, and other international sports organizations. On the coffin, covered by the Czechoslovak state flag, were wreaths from the CPCZ Central Committee, the Central Committee of the National Front, the Federal Assembly, the federal and national governments, social organizations, and Juan Antonio Samaranch, chairman of the International Olympic Committee.

The funeral speech was delivered by Comrade Jindrich Polednik. He recalled the dedicated and involved work of Antonin Himl in party posts, in representative corps, the National Front, and physical educational and youth movements. He stressed that he was a convinced, enthusiastic, and educated Communist. Sports were his great love. They accompanied him from childhood to the last days of his life. In Antonin Himl we are losing an exemplary and dedicated official and Communist, and a sincere patriot and internationalist. His untimely death is a great loss for our Communist Party, socialist state, and physical education movement.

Luhovy, Soviet Agricultural Minister Meet

LD102141 Prague Domestic Service in Czech
1600 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Ladislav Luhovy, federal minister of general engineering, had talks in Prague today with Aleksandr Yezhevskiy, the Soviet minister of tractor and agricultural and machine building, on mutual deliveries of agricultural technology. They discussed possibilities of strengthening specialization and production cooperation, above all, of forestry tractors, climatization for tractors and Don grain combines, and of hydrostatic transmissions.

Soviet Friendship Society Meets in Prague
LD172239 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1730 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] Attended by a delegation of the CPCZ Central Committee, the National Front, and the federal government, headed by Alois Indra, a festive joint session of the Federal Czech and Slovak Central Committee of the Union of Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Association was held in Prague today. Pavel Andres reports:

The session took place on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of victorious February and the same anniversary of the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Association. It's significance is enhanced by the participation of first deputy Nilolay Sychev, chairman of the central leadership of the Soviet-Czechoslovak Friendship Soviety, and delegation of the USSR Embassy in Czechoslovakia.

The main address was delivered by Zdenek Horeni, chairman of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Society. He recalled the significance of this movement, its striving to implement friendship with the USSR in the 20's, till today's development of political, economic, cultural, and other all-round cooperation. When talking about the union's current tasks, he stressed the significance of their reply to the restructuring program and all the new things that have entered Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship. It is characterized by support of the USSR'S peace policy, further development of mutual contacts and cooperation, and economic spheres, above all specialization, cooperation, and direct relations between enterprises and factories.

Comrade Alois Indra then acquainted those present with the greetings from CPCZ Central Committee. The address was delivered by Sychev, head of the delegation of the Soviet-Czechoslovak Friendship Society. Those present at the session then adopted letters to the CPCZ Central Committee and the Soviet-Czechoslovak Friendship Society. At the moment, a festive concert is under way in the Smetana Hall in Prague. A working session will continue tomorrow.

Communique on Visit to European Parliament
AU171135 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 12 Feb 88 p 7

[CTK report: "Czechoslovak Deputies Attend Session of European Parliament; Meeting With Representatives of the Socialist Group"]

[Text] Strasbourg—A Federal Assembly delegation, headed by its First Deputy Chairman Jan Marko, attended a plenary session of the European Parliament on Thursday [11 February]. The official chairing the session individually introduced each member of the first Federal Assembly delegation to appear in the forum of the parliament, and deputies of political parties from 12 Western European countries greeted them with applause.

At the end of their 3-day deliberations in Strasbourg, the Czechoslovak guests met with representatives of the socialist group in the European Parliament, at whose invitation the visit took place. In the joint communique, the delegations of the deputies of the Federal Assembly and of the socialist group stressed the importance of the treaty on the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, and the necessity of continuing the process of disarmament by radically reducing strategic offensive weapons, eliminating all chemical weapons, as well as limiting armed forces and conventional armament in Europe to the lowest possible level. They favored the continuation of the all-European process through the policy of peaceful coexistence, strengthening security and cooperation, and the further building of a common "European house."

The two delegations also favored an early conclusion of the talks between CEMA and the EEC and the establishment of official relations between them. They expressed the conviction that this would create the foundation for a substantial expansion of cooperation in all spheres covered by the Helsinki Final Act, especially as regards mutually advantageous economic cooperation between CEMA and the EEC, as well as bilateral relations between their members. This would also make possible accelerating the appropriate talks between the CSSR and the EEC, which would be an important contribution to the expansion of their political, trade, and humanitarian relations.

The delegations expressed appreciation of the friendly atmosphere, openness, and constructive nature of the talks. They favored the continuation of the dialogue between the CSSR Federal Assembly and the European Parliament, which is the joint contribution to the strengthening of trust and peaceful cooperation among the nations of the European Continent.

Leaders Public Appearances 18-22 Jan 88

AU270844 [Editorial Report] Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech and Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak from 19 to 23 January report the following appearances of CSSR leaders (source, date, and page number of each report is given in parentheses):

Vasil Bilak, member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, received Jiri Majsajdr, the new CSSR ambassador to Bangladesh, and Zdenek Pisk, the new CSSR ambassador to Uruguay, in connection with their taking up their posts, in Prague on 19 January.

Alois Indra, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and chairman of the CSSR Federal Assembly, received Majsajdr and Pisk in Prague the same day.

Josef Havlin, CPCZ Central Committee secretary, attended and addressed a session of the CPCZ District Committee in Domazlice on 19 January. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 20 Jan p 1)

Josef Haman, candidate member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, attended and addressed a session of the CPCZ's South Moravian Regional Committee in Brno on 20 January. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 21 Jan p 1)

Ignac Janak, candidate member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and secretary of the CPSL Central Committee, attended and addressed a session of the CPSL's Central Slovak Regional Committee in Banska Bystrica on 20 January. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 21 Jan p 2)

Jindrich Polednik, CPCZ Central Committee secretary, attended the 11th session of the Committee of the Central Council of Cooperatives in Jiloviste near Prague on 20 January. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 21 Jan p 2)

Frantisek Pitra, candidate member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, attended and addressed a statewide aktiv of youth working in agriculture in the Podlesi united agricultural cooperative in Valasske Mezirici on 20 January. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 21 Jan p 2)

Peter Colotka, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and premier of the Slovak SR, paid a visit to the exhibition Koloman Sokol's graphic works in Bratislava on 20 January. (Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 21 Jan p 2)

Ladislav Adamec, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and premier of the Czech SR, attended and addressed a session of the CPCZ's East Bohemian Regional Committee in Hradec Kralove on 21 January. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 22 Jan p 2)

Vasiw Bilak has received Gunter Sieber, member of the SED Central Committee and head of a SED Central Committee department, in Prague, date not given. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 22 Jan p 1)

Jozef Lenart, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and first secretary of the CPSL Central Committee, and Miloslav Hruskovic, candidate member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and secretary of the CPSL Central Committee, attended an aktiv devoted to the preparation of young people for their professions, in Bratislava on 21 January. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 22 Jan p 2)

Frantisek Pitra, candidate member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee, presented the Order of Victorious February to Jindrich Kocer, leading secretary of the CPCZ's Pelhrimov District Committee, on the occasion of the latter's 60th birthday, in Ceske Budejovice on 21 January. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 22 Jan p 2)

Josef Kempny, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and chairman of the Czech National Council, attended a joint working meeting with Viliam Salgovic, CPSL Central Committee Presidium member and chairman of the Slovak National Council, and deputy chairmen of the Czech and Slovak National Councils in Bratislava on 21 January. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 22 Jan p 2)

Antonin Kapek, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and leading secretary of the CPCZ's Prague City Committee, presented the Order of Labor to Jindrich Vana, chairman of the national committee in Prague's 7th district, on the occasion of the latter's 60th birthday, in Prague on 22 January. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 23 Jan p 2)

Leaders Public Appearances 22-29 Jan 88

AU031148 [Editorial Report] Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech and Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak on 23-30 January report the following appearances of CSSR leaders (source, date, page of each report specified in parentheses; Slovak Communist Party abbreviated as CPSL):

Gustav Husak, CSSR president, received Jiri Majsajdr, newly appointed CSSR ambassador to Bangladesh, in Prague on 26 January. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 27 Jan p 1)

Bohuslav Chnoupek, CSSR foreign minister, accompanied FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl during a wreath-laying ceremony at the National Memorial in Prague on 26 January. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 27 Jan p 1)

Vratislav Vajnar, CSSR interior minister, welcomed FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the National Memorial in Prague on 26 January. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 27 Jan p 1) Next day he addressed a meeting of party and ministry officials in the CSSR Ministry of Interior in Prague. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 28 Jan p 2)

Jozef Lenart, CPSL Central Committee Presidium member and Central Committee first secretary, together with CPSL Central Committee Presidium members Peter Colotka and Miloslav Hruskovic, attended a meeting between top Slovak state and party bodies and leading mass information and media staff in Bratislava on 26 January. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 27 Jan p 2) On the same day J. Lenart chaired the session of the Slovak National Front Central Committee in Bratislava. (Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 27 Jan p 2) Next day he addressed the political staff of the CPSL Central Committee and its institutions in Bratislava. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 28 Jan p 2) On 28 January he addressed a seminar for CPSL staff and officials of Slovak central state and social bodies and institutions in Casta near Bratislava. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 29 Jan p 2)

Frantisek Pitra, candidate member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium, attended an event in honor of the 40th anniversary of Romania and the 70th birthday of N. Ceausescu at the Romanian Embassy in Prague on 26 January. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 27 Jan p 2) Next day he arrived in the Tabor District for a working visit. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 28 Jan p 2)

Josef Havlin, CPSL Central Committee secretary, visited the Institute of Archeology and the Pedagogical Faculty, and attended a session of the CPSL's Nitra District Committee in Nitra on 25 January. (Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 26 Jan p 2) On 27 January he addressed party officials at the Agricultural Academy of the Pedagogical School in Nitra; on the same day he also addressed the teachers, students, and staff of the CPCZ Central Committee's Faculty of the Advanced School of Politics in Bratislava. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 28 Jan p 2) On 29 January he presented congratulatory letters from M. Jakes and G. Husak to National Artist J. Petrovicka on her birthday in Prague. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 30 Jan p 1)

Antonin Kapek, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and leading secretary of the party's Prague City Committee, addressed the Prague City Committee session on 27 January. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 28 Jan p 1)

Ladislav Adamec, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and CSSR deputy premier, was among those attending the festive luncheon given by FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the FRG Embassy in Prague on 27 January. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 28 Jan pp 1,7)

Ignac Janak, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and CPSL Central Committee secretary, inspected the research-and-production facility of the Research Institute for Mechanization and Automation and the MILEX dairy plant in Nove Mesto nad Vahom, in the Trencin District, and attended the session of the CPSL District Committee in Trencin on 27 January. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 28 Jan p 2)

Milos Jakes, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary, received Jan Machaj, newly appointed head of the CSSR's trade mission in the USSR, in Prague on 28 January. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 29 Jan p 1) In the presence of Mikulas Beno, CPCZ Central Committee secretary, he received Jozef Baryla, PZPR Central Committee Politburo member and Central Committee secretary, in Prague on the same day. Jozef Baryla opened talks with Mikulas Beno, and was later received by Jindrich Polednik, CPCZ Central Committee secretary, in Prague the same day. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 29 Jan p 1) On 29 January M. Beno accompanied J. Baryla to the SKODA works in Plzen and a meeting with the leadership of the regional party organization in Plzen; in the evening of the same day he saw J. Baryla off at Ruzyne Airport in Prague, in the presence of Jindrich Polednik. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 30 Jan p 2)

Jan Fojtik, candidate member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and Central Committee secretary, attended the opening of a memorial exhibition in honor of the memory of late RUDE PRAVO editor Urx in Velka nad Velickou near Hodonin on 28 January. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 29 Jan p 2)

Karel Hoffmann, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and Central Committee secretary, received Guenter Ehrensperger. SED Central Committee member, in Prague on 28 January; on the same day he received in Prague Ernst Kucza, PZPR Central Committee member. (Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 29 Jan p 2)

Reichelt Addresses Baltic Sea Conference

AU181401 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 17 Feb 88 p 6

[Speech by Hans Reichelt, minister of environmental protection and water conservancy, at the Helsinki Environment Conference on 15 February: "Protection of the Baltic Sea—a Priority Concern of the GDR"]

[Excerpts] Esteemed Mr President, ladies and gentlemen:

The GDR Council of Ministers welcomes the initiative of the governments of Finland, Sweden, and Denmark to organize this conference of the Commission for the Protection of the Baltic at a historic site, with the participation of the responsible ministers. Our delegation expresses cordial thanks for the invitation to this meeting and the agreeable reception in your hospitable country. [passage omitted]

In our country, environmental policy is an integral component of economic and social policy and serves to benefit the country.

The GDR Has Fully Taken Into Account the Concern of the Helsinki Convention [subhead]

Accordingly, the GDR Government has always devoted great attention to the protection of the Baltic Sea. The list of measures implemented in past years for the protection of the Baltic Sea and its environment is long. For example, from the early seventies onward our share in the pollution has been reduced by 2 percent to today's 1.5 percent. Thus, the GDR is one of the countries that pollute the Baltic least.

With the Council of Ministers' decisions on keeping the Baltic clean which were taken for a 5-year plan period in the years 1973, 1976, and 1980 respectively, and with the GDR Water Act of July 1982, the concern of the Helsinki Convention was fully taken into account. In January 1987—already for the fourth time—the GDR Government passed a resolution on comprehensive measures to further reduce the pollution of the Baltic Sea and to improve environmental conditions in the coastal area for a 5-year plan period. A standing commission of governmental representatives from several sectors of the national economy regularly coordinates and checks the implementation of these decisions.

From 1973 to 1985 more than 20 major plants to clean industrial and communal sewage were built in the cities and industrial enterprises of the immediate coastal area. Numerous plants were newly built at the inlets to the Baltic.

Thus, we have considerably reduced the pollution of the sea that emanates from the land. For example, by 1986 the pollution by the GDR catchment area had been reduced by an amount that—by way of comparison—corresponds to sewage from the households of 1 million inhabitants. The state targets were even surpassed by this result.

In the 5-year plan period from 1986 to 1990 various projects are being implemented to reduce the pollution from sewage and the flow of pollutants into the Baltic Sea. In cities and municipalities the construction of approximately 50 sewage plants has been concluded or started.

Successful Protection of the Steep Coasts [subhead]

For 2 years we have taken important steps to improve sewage treatment in rural areas in order to reduce the damage done by the flow of nutrients into the waters. By 1987 this had been done in 170 municipalities, and by 1990 it will be 330 more. With all this, the pollution of the sea by the GDR will be reduced by values equivalent to approximately 700,000 inhabitants.

In past years much was done to improve the protection of the coasts and the recreational and hygienic conditions on beaches. In 1983 the GDR Government passed a resolution on special measures which are being successfully implemented, for the protection of the steep coasts—often rare natural monuments.

In order to prevent pollution, our ships have been equipped with containers for oily water, waste, and excrement. In the harbors of Rostock, Wismar, and Stralsund facilities to handle these waste products were put into operation and harbor cleaning boats were put into service.

Since 1977 the plant to process of bilge and ballast water in the Rostock overseas harbor alone has treated more than 100,000 cubic meters of such waste products per year. Every year approximately 7,000 tonnes of oil are kept out of the sea and regained for the economic cycle. This plant guarantees that oil-polluted water produced in the harbor, on ships, and on land is cleaned in such a way that the value reached is considerably lower than the limit established in the Helsinki convention—at most 14 milligrams of oil per liter of cleaned sewage.

With a decree of March 1982 the GDR Government laid down the measures which were necessary for the fight against damage by pollutants on the open sea and in the territorial waters, and which were recommended by the Helsinki Commission. For this purpose a special base, which is being enlarged, was established in Rostock, with the required technology and the necessary equipment. Another one will be set up in Sasnitz.

Since the mid-fifties institutes of the GDR Academy of Sciences, the Universities of Rostock and Greifswald and the water resources office of the Stralsund coast have been doing manysided research work on supervising the state of the Baltic's and its changes. Special attention is paid to scientific investigations for the long-term development of the nutrient balance and the distribution of marine pollutants, such as heavy metals, oils and chlorinated hydrocarbons. [passage omitted]

It has to be stated that the flow of heavy metals and toxic substances from the GDR into the Baltic Sea is already hardly detectable in the water. The target is to achieve a further reduction by 1990 by retaining the heavy metals from sewage and reintroducing them into the economic cycle, and thus achieve the objectives of the declaration.

We are planning various measures to reduce the pollution by nutrients. Among them are the economical use of mineral and organic fertilizers in agriculture on the basis of computer-supported fertilizer recommendations and the scientifically justified demand for nutrients, the further enlargement of storerooms and secure depots for fertilizers and liquid manure—for this purpose considerable means are already used in the Baltic area—and the construction of phosphate elimination systems in sewage plants.

Another Field for Cooperation [subhead]

With good reason, the draft declaration is aiming at new scientific-technological solutions for the various measures in industry and agriculture on the rapid reduction of pollution. For this purpose, cooperation in science, technical processes, and technology is deemed to be absolutely necessary. Our delegation suggests that the promotion of the transfer of environmental technical processes and technology, ensuring the most-favored-nation clause, be included in the declaration. The GDR itself continues to be prepared for important achievements in research, technical processes, and technology. [passage omitted]

With the development of productive cooperation in protecting the marine environment of the Baltic area and the economical use of its natural resources within the scope of the Helsinki Commission, the GDR will do all that is required to conscientiously fulfill the undertaken obligations.

Kessler Visits Army-USSR Forces Training Area

LD181646 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1355 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 18 Feb (ADN)—Army General Kessler, SED Central Committee Politburo member and minister of National Defense, today praised the close cooperation between the National People's Army and the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany during a visit to military exercise grounds in the north of the GDR. Together with Defense Ministry members of staff he saw evidence of the high standard of training of the troops and staffs of the two armies.

In a meeting between the GDR defense minister and members of the Soviet Army, the latter expressed their determination to contribute at all times to guaranteeing the necessary defense capability alongside GDR soldiers. Army General Kessler stressed the historic achievements of the Soviet Army and the naval fleet in the 70 years of their existence, and on the eve of their anniversary wished the Soviet soldiers fresh successes in fulfilling their responsible mission.

Earlier Army General Kessler visited a National People's Army command post. The army members gave an assurance that they would steadfastly deepen the traditional friendship with their comrades-in-arms from the land of Lenin.

Conference on Nuclear-Free Zone Proposed

AU181834 Paris AFP in English 1827 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Berlin, Feb 18 (AFP)—East Germany rekindled its idea of a nuclear-free corridor through central Europe by offering Thursday [18 February] to host an international conference in East Berlin on non-nuclear zones, officials said.

East German leader Erich Honecker invited representatives of states, governments, churches, political parties, parliaments, unions and other organizations to attend the conference.

Several politburo members and Defence Minister Heinz Kessler attended the first meeting of a committee formed to prepare for the conference, to be held in June. [passage omitted]

Observers said East Germany's offer to host the conference was intended to gain international support for the plan.

Appeal Message Reported

LD181859 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1606 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Berlin, 18 Feb (ADN)—The text of the appeal of the GDR National Committee for the preparation of the international meeting for nuclear weapons-free zones is as follows:

The peoples wish for nothing more urgently than for peace. This is the greatest good for mankind. Everything achieved by mankind is at stake if there is a thermonuclear conflict. Disarmament, and in particular the elimination of nuclear weapons, is the key to solving humanity's global problems in our time. This is why people have received with satisfaction and confidence the start to nuclear disarmament which is made possible by the 8 December 1982 Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, and the intended halving of strategic missile potentials.

The peoples of the world want further nuclear disarmament steps, for the danger of a nuclear inferno has not yet been banished. Every path leading toward a nuclear weapons-free, peaceful world should be taken. This includes the creation of nuclear weapons-free regions, zones, and corridors. Nuclear weapons-free zones already exist and are proving themselves in Latin America and the South Pacific. Everywhere, in north and south, East and West, the idea of nuclear weapons-free zones is increasing in attractiveness. The GDR, which, as is known, supports with great commitment a nuclear weapons-free corridor in central Europe and the continental and global elimination of all nuclear weapons, regards as very timely an international exchange of views and experience of the leading representatives of states, governments and parliaments, parties, trade unions, youth, sports and womens organizations, peace movements, associations of scientists, artists, churches and religious communities, and other interested circles and personages concerning nuclear weapons-free zones.

This is why in Berlin, capital of the GDR, today a national committee for the preparation of an "international meeting for nuclear weapons-free zones" to take place in Berlin 20-22 June 1988" has been constituted.

We turn to the representatives of various political and religious ideologies, and of the most varied professions and generations on all continents, with the request that they support the preparations for this international meeting, at which an objective and open dialogue for peace and disarmament should be conducted.

Berlin, 18 February 1988 E. Honecker, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and chairman of the Council of State of the GDR Patron of the GDR Preparatory Committee for an "International Meeting for Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones.

Axen Addresses Committee

LD182253 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1530 GMT 18 Feb

[Excerpts] Berlin, 18 Feb (ADN)—Dr H.C. Guenther Drefahl, GDR Peace Council president opened the National Preparatory Committee constituent meeting with cordial thanks to Erich Honecker for his readiness to become a patron of the organization. Professor Dr Drefahl stressed that the committee included ministers, deputies from all groups and various committees of the People's Chamber, leading representatives of the mass organizations, trade union representatives, FDJ representatives and DFD [Democratic Women's League of Germany] representatives.

The committee members included the chairpersons of the befriended parties, the president of the National Front National Council, leading representatives of other social organizations, the presidents of the Academies of Science and Arts, the Writers' Union and numerous other social committees, scientific and artistic organizations and bodies.

The committee, said the Peace Council president, includes representatives from all strata of our nation—working people in industry and agriculture, representative of science, art and culture, of religious communities and Christian associations. Politicians, journalists, teachers and sportsmen and sportswomen are in the committee.

A beautiful, but also hard period of work begins for us today, said Professor Dr Drefahl. We are giving the starting signal for a new, important initiative by the GDR, which fits logically into our state's and citizen's steadfast peace efforts. We underline our determination, he said, to actively contribute to the creation of a nuclear weapons-feee world, averting the danger of nuclear war which is threatening mankind. We have always decisively worked toward this with constructive proposals and will continue in the future to demonstrate this.

Hermann Axen then spoke.

To begin with he conveyed the most cordial greetings from Erich Honecker. An international meeting of prominent representative of the states and of the broadest social movements on the specific topic of nuclear weapons-free zones appears to be of particuarly urgent topicality today, Hermann Axen stressed. Pointing to the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range missiles and the agreement on a 50 percent reduction in strategic nuclear capacities while observing the ABM Treaty, he said: "The logical consequence of this is the task of preventing, in people's dismantling of the threatening USSR and U.S. nuclear potentials through an arms buildup in other countries or with other weapons systems. This task concerns all states and peoples. Everyone can and should help to remove the scourge of the threat of war from mankind forever, because if the arms race continues, ever more dangerous weapons systems will be increasingly automated and entrusted to the reliability of computers and the danger of a nuclear inferno will grow afresh." And this need to remove the nuclear threat, he added, recognized by good sense of men of reason and the new thinking which takes account of the risks of the nuclear age—and which Albert Einstein had already spoken about—has gained in influence throughout the world and is continuing to gain in influence. People are aware that the elementary basic condition for their freedom and for their personal happiness is "freedom from the bomb," freedom from the fear of seeing the past, present and future sinking in the fiery glow and in the ashes of total destruction. The Damocles sword of a nuclear inferno and chemical holocaust has long been hanging over mankind, Hermann Axen stressed. The knowledge of this has put too many creative, future-oriented thoughts, plans and means in chains. The elimination of all mass destruction systems is also the key to complete and general disarmament to a level of adequate defense capability. Nuclear, chemical and conventional disarmament will set free the enormous potential of the human spirit of creativity and huge material means which to date have been sacrificed to the arms Moloch for the peaceful life of the peoples and states.

Coexistence among people would become more secure and more free. What prospects would open up to today's youth and to future generations!

Hermann Axen spoke of the realization that today no one can win a nuclear war. The conclusion drawn by Communists and Social Democrats, by the realistic forces of the bourgeoisie, by believers of all religious faiths by scientists and artists, and by statesmen of the majority of countries is that security can no longer be achieved and preserved against one another, but only with one another, and every single state, whether large or small, whether it possesses nuclear weapons or not, should do something for it. Hermann Axen pointed to the GDR'S farsighted policy of limiting the harm done by the Brussels missile decision and its consequences, strengthening the struggle for peace, and putting political dialogue, reasons, and cooperation in place of military confrontation. "This policy has found support throughout the world. It proved to be increasingly successful. It corresponds to the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act and the wish of the peoples of our continent to jointly fashion a peaceful and attractive European home." "This is particularly difficult but also particularly urgent precisely here," Hermann Axen continued, "Where the two great military alliances of our time stand opposite one another eye to eye on the sensitive border between socialism and capitalism, where there is the greatest concentration of troops and equipment in a densely populated and highly industrialized area of conurbation. To create trust where it does not yet exist sufficiently; to maintain advance warning times and possibilities for the peaceful clarification of incidents where such do not yet exist; to link nuclear, chemical, and conventional disarmament with one another; to create zones of reduced armament here—This is of paramount importance for peace in Europe and in the world."

Hermann Axen stressed that the program for freeing the world from nuclear weapons proposed by Mikhail Gorbachev has intermediate stages and concrete plans. However, it also has an end aim: by the year 2000, the earth should be free of mass destruction weapons. What is meant by this are all means of mass destruction. The support of the GDR and its allies for a "third zero solution" which includes all tactical nuclear weapons and for a nuclear weapons-free corridor in Europe is anything but propaganda.

As Hermann Axen emphasized, it is, rather, the practical and convincing perception of national and European interests. Social democratic and liberal politicians and statesmen such as Andreas Papandreou, Felipe Gonzalez, Mauno Koivisto, Ingvar Carlsson, Franz Vranitzky, and many others understood this very well and devoted their attention to it. Hundreds of millions of people want to defend themselves against the nuclear threat. More and more, the conscience of the world is determining world development. "The Antarctic Treaty, the Space Treaty, the nonproliferation Treaty, the Treaty of Tlatelolco of 1967 on the banning of nuclear weapons in Latin America, and the Treaty of Rarotonga of 1986 concerning a nuclear weapons-free zone in the South Pacific all attest to the striving of nations and states for freedom from nuclear weapons. Favorable conditions are now within reach in order to realize plans for nuclear weapons-free zones in northern, central, and southern Europe; in the Indian Ocean and in Southeast Asia; on the Korean peninsula and in the Near East; and in Africa and in the Atlantic. Thus, a network is growing which comprises the whole earth and which encourages the nuclear powers not to allow any major hiatus to occur in nuclear disarmament."

It is the concern of the international meeting, Hermann Axen stressed, to make progress with dialogue and cooperation between the multifarious peace forces which support freedom from nuclear weapons in their regions as a path toward liberating the world from nuclear weapons. The GDR and the forces involved in the country's peace movement can indeed contribute weighty words to this which will find a hearing in the world.

Numerous inquiries from home and abroad to the GDR Government and to parties and mass organizations have attested to the great attention which is being accorded to the proposal by Erich Honecker for a meeting on this set of topics. It will be an honor and a pleasure to welcome representatives of states interested in this issue, Hermann Axen said with reference to the meeting in June.

"We appeal to the United Nations and its competent special organizations to support this intention. We appeal to governments and parliaments, to political parties, to international and national peace movements, to trade unions, women's and youth organizations, to towns and communities, to scientists and artists, to the representatives of various religions and creeds, to representatives of the economy, and to all those who have an interest in zones of peace to conduct and open and constructive dialogue here in Berlin, to outline experiences in the establishment of zones of peace and to discuss ideas and proposals for the shaping of these concepts and projects. We appeal to governments and social forces in Europe who are working for nuclear weapons-free zones in the heart of our continent, in northern Europe, in the Balkans, in the Mediterranean region, and in other areas."

"We appeal to governments and social forces in Latin America and in the South Pacific," Hermann Axen continued, "in Africa and Southeast Asia, and to the littoral states of the Indian Ocean. In a word, we appeal to all regions and countries in the world in which experiences in the establishment of such zones are already present or which support the establishment of nuclear weapons-free regions." The Berlin meeting should thus reflect all the new, positive elements which are emerging in the international political panorama of our time, he stressed. "Let us shape that meeting jointly as a broadly effective forum f a coalitin of reason and the desire for peace on earth and in space." [passage omitted: minor speakers]

At the end of the discussion, Hermann Axen noted the speakers' full agreement with Erich Honecker's initiative to convene an international meeting for nuclear weapons-free zones in Berlin. Representatives of all classes and strata had underlined the urgency of an international meeting of this nature.

Hermann Axen noted the body's approval of the appeal to world public opinion which was before it. The practical work of the GDR National Committee has thus begun.

Physicians Issue Declaration on Nuclear War

AU181620 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 17 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—On Tuesday [16 February] the GDR section of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War published the following press declaration in Berlin:

For 18 months the Soviet Union kept a unilateral nuclear test moratorium. The world was relieved and hoped that the United States would join in halting nuclear tests. Unfortunately this did not happen. The desert of Nevada continues to be shaken by underground nuclear tests.

The tranquility in the Semipalatinsk test area gave way to new nuclear tests. Whether in the United States, the Soviet Union, or by France in the Pacific—the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War regard the thermonuclear tests as a threat to mankind. These tests may serve the development of even more terrible weapon systems.

We physicians, who have sworn on account of our profession to do everything in our power to preserve the health and lives of the people, appeal to the politicians in East and West, in North and South, to take mankind's yearning for peace into account. With concern and regret we had to take note of the nuclear tests in Semipalatinsk on 6 February and in Nevada on 15 February 1988. We are convinced that a competition between the Soviet Union and the United States in this disastrous area entails serious dangers. These tests have to be regarded as a violation of our medical prescription of a nuclear test freeze as a relevant step toward nuclear disarmament.

Budapest Reports Gromyko To Visit 23-27 Feb

LD181805 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Andrey Gromyko is to arrive in our homeland next Tuesday. The chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has been invited for a 4-day official friendly visit by the MSZMP Central Committee and the Presidential Council.

Rally Celebrates Hungarian-Soviet Treaty

LD182252 Budapest MTI in English 1920 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 18 (MTI)—On the 40th anniversary of the Hungarian-Soviet Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance, the National Presidium of the Hungarian-Soviet Friendship society held a festive rally at the Budapest headquarters of Tungsram Co. on Thursday. The celebration was attended by Miklos Ovari, member of the HSWP Political Committee and secretary of the Central Committee, Peter Varkonyi, foreign minister, Nikolay Danilin, first deputy president of the Soviet-Hungarian Friendship Society, and representatives of the headquarters of the Soviet Southern Army Group temporarily stationed in Hungary.

Delivering a festive speech, Antal Apro, president of the Hungarian-Soviet Friendship Society, emphasized that the treaty had stood the test of time, and efficiently served the fulfilment of tasks faced by Hungary and the Soviet Union. At present Hungary transacts a third of its foreign trade turnover with the Soviet Union. The two countries cooperated in the construction of major investment projects such as the Paks nuclear power plant, the 750-kv electric power transmission line, the oil refinery of Leninvaros, and two converter steel mills at the Danube iron works in Hungary and the Orenburg gas pipeline and several asbestos and cellulose combines in the Soviet Union.

On cultural cooperation, Antal Apro said tabt an annual 50 to 60 Hungarian titles are issued in the USSR in Russian and other languages of the Soviet peoples. A relatively large Hungarian minority lives in the Soviet Union, and their equal rights are guaranteed by law and in everyday practice. The culture of the Hungarian national minority living in the Transcarpathian region of the Ukraine has become an integral part of Soviet culture.

Budapest, February 18 (MTI)—Addressing the rally, Vladlen Puntus, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Soviet Embassy in Budapest, emphasized that relations between the two countries have always been enriched by new forms and methods over the past four decades. Since the treaty was signed, cooperation has yielded outstanding results: Over a hundred industrial projects have been established in Hungary and the Soviet Union. In the current five-year plan period (1986-90) bilateral trade turnover is to surpass 51,000 million roubles.

The Moscow-based Hungarian Information and Cultural Centre which will be set up under an agreement to be signed in the next few days is designed to serve an intellectual approach between the two peoples and the familiarization of one another's culture and science, Vladlen Puntus said.

TV Reports Kulikov Comments

LD190958 [Editorial Report] Budapest Television Service in Hungarian at 1715 GMT on 18 February carries a 30-minute "On the Common Path" program which is devoted to the 40th anniversary of the Hungarian-Soviet Friendship Treaty.

The unidentified presenter begins by reviewing the history of the signing of the treaty. He then introduces Boris Stukalin, Soviet ambassador to Hungary since 1985.

Speaking in Russian, with superimposed Hungarian translation, Stukalin analyzes the first years of Soviet-Hungarian cooperation. He says: "In the opening phase, in the time of setting the people's economy on its feet again and strengthening the system of people's democracy, in our economic relations we urged first and foremost the creation of a significant industrial foundation. This was indispensable for the development of the economy, to fulfill the social and political tasks which arose at that time.

As Hungarian television viewers know well, the Soviet Union, both then and in the following years, gave significant help to Hungary in building and reconstructing big industrial concerns. Over 100 such significant plants were built and reconstructed with the help of the Soviet Union. What is more, according to our Hungarian friends, it is precisely in these factories that the determining part of Hungarian industrial products are manufactured. If we look, for example, at the manufacture of steel and aluminium rolled goods, coke, ball bearings, or refining crude oil, natural gas, then the ratio reaches 80, sometimes even 100 percent."

The history of the treaty is recalled, and mention is made of the more progressive nature of the treaty signed in 1967. An unidentified speaker recalls bilateral relations in the years since the treaty was first signed. Gorbachev's speech at the Great October Socialist Revolution anniversary in November 1987 is recalled, and an unidentified Soviet voice speaks of more modern forms of economic cooperation.

The history of the formation of NATO and of the Warsaw Pact is outlined.

The presenter introduces Marshal Viktor Kulikov, commander in chief of the Joint Armed Forces of Warsaw Pact Nations, who, speaking in Russian with superimposed Hungarian translation, discusses the principles of joint defense policy. He says: "Every country has its own characteristics, its own organizational structure. There can of course exist certain characteristics in the methods of training. All this leaves its mark on the military doctrine of the Warsaw Pact member countries. However, I would like to tell the television viewers, everyone, that our military doctrine is in essence unified. The principle is the same, it is the principle of rational sufficiency, the unconditional defense of security, socialist achievements, and peace.

"Everyone is interested by what is meant in the armed forces by the principle of rational sufficiency. There can only be one reply: the sufficiency which securely guarantees the defense of the peace of every state, and of the states of the Warsaw Pact. This is how this appears in the resolution of the political advisory body, and our armed forces keep these precepts in view."

The help given by Soviet soldiers stationed in Hungary on various occasions is recalled, such as the floods in 1970.

Kulikov continues: "The vast majority of Hungarian young people are healthy, strong, with a great sense of patriotism, and fulfill their patriotic duties—that is the defense of the country—magnificently. On the joint military exercises, the soldiers of the Hungarian People's Army are exemplary in their braveness.

"I had the occasion to participate in the recruitment and joining up at the Debrecen Military District, where every soldier is excellently prepared during the period of training.

"It cannot be said of our armed forces either that every soldier has the same level of preparedness. However, the vast majority are basically physically healthy young people. Following the training, they learn bravery, and after training and education these are real Soviet people, who work in factories, offices, kolkhozes, sovkhozes.

"Naturally, it would be incorrect to say that this applies to everyone. Are there mistakes? Yes. During the period of military service, we try to make unfold all those characteristics which make a soldier a real soldier."

The program concludes with an unnamed Soviet speaker talking about the changes underway in the Soviet Union, and the problems still to be overcome in restructuring. Interest toward Hungary has increased in the Soviet Union, resulting in more intense and lively contacts in many spheres.

Finally, an unidentified Hungarian speaks of the importance of cooperation and bilateral as well as international relations, in the age of reform.

Szuros Talks With Italian, Vatican Officials

LD182226 Budapest MTI in English
1845 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Rome, February 18 (MTI)—Matyas Szuros, secretary of the HSWP CC and president of the Foreign Affairs Commission of Parliament, paid a visit to Italy at the invitation of the president of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Chamber of Deputies. On Thursday Matyas Szuros held talks with Giorgio Napolitano, member of the leadership of the Italian Communist Party (PCI) in charge of foreign affairs, Margherita Boniver, foreign affairs secretary of the Italian Socialist Party (PSI), and Ciriaco de Mita, general secretary of the Christian Democratic Party.

The HSWP CC secretary and Giorgio Napolitano laid emphasis on further developing the traditionally good relations between the HSWP and the PCI, and called for introducing new forms of cooperation that may effectively contribute to improving the international atmosphere, to consolidating security and the disarmament process, and to the approach of European states.

Margherita Boniver and the Hungarian politician welcomed the development of relations between the HSWP and the Italian Socialist Party. In the light of the tripartite initiative related to the cooperation of Non-nuclear countries, they examined the improving conditions of the unity of left-wing forces in Europe from the aspect of strengthening the favourable processes on the continent.

In their successful talks Matyas Szuros and Ciriaco de Mita agreed to establish consultative relations between the two parties, exchanged views on the ways and means of lending impetus to economic cooperation between the West and East European states, and took a stand for further developing international relations in keeping with the requirements of the age.

Before concluding his visit to Rome, Matyas Szuros met Secretary of State Cardinal Agostino Casaroli in the Vatican. The sides highly appreciated the good relationship and successful cooperation between the Hungarian state and the churches in Hungary which served as an example for the cooperation of believers and atheists and became indispensable in the light of the global issues of our age, such as peace and disarmament and combatting famine and social inequalities.

The sides assessed the good relations between the Hungarian State and the Vatican in relationship with the cooperation established between the Hungarian state and the churches and denominations in Hungary in the course of decades. Both parties gave a favourable assessment to the European processes enriching the values of understanding, humanism and confidence in the wake of the Helsinki conference.

At the end of his visit the Hungarian politician held a press conference in Rome. Matyas Szuros assessed his talks in Italy as successful and emphasized the possibility of establishing specific, intensive political, economic and other kinds of relations between the Hungarian People's Republic and Italy so the two countries can further contribute to the constructive solution of the problems of the continent.

Syrian Party Delegation Visits 11-18 Feb

LD181725 Budapest MTI in English
1606 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 18 (MTI)—A delegation of the Syrian Ba'ath Arab Socialist Party, headed by 'Ali Baridi [name as received]; First secretary of the Dar'a Governorate, visited Hungary from February 11 to 18 at the invitation of the HSWP CC.

The delegation studied the party guidance of the mass organizations at their national centres, provincial party committees and factories, and held talks with Jeno Kovacs, deputy head of department of the HSWP CC.

GDR's Dohlus Heads Delegation to Budapest

LD182229 Budapest MTI in English
1904 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Budapest, February 18 (MTI)—A delegation headed by Horst Dohlus, member of the Political Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SUPG) and secretary of the Central Committee, arrived in Budapest on Thursday at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party. At Budapest's Ferihegy Airport the delegation met Janos Lukacs, secretary of the HSWP CC.

Janos Lukacs and Horst Dohlus gave briefs on the situation of their parties, the forthcoming tasks of the HSWP and the SUPG, and the topical issues of socialist construction in the two countries. The sides exchanged views on inter-party cooperation which they stated was developing successfully, in keeping with mutual interests.

The delegation headed by Horst Dohlus met Gyorgy Lazar, HSWP deputy general secretary.

HSWP Delegation To Attend Spanish CP Congress

LD181824 Budapest MTI in English
1731 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Madrid, February 18 (MTI)—A Hungarian party delegation,headed by Andras Gyenes, president of the HSWP Central Control Committee, arrived in Madrid on Thursday at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Spain (CPS). The delegation is to attend the 12th CPS Congress to start on Friday.

Notion of 'Crisis' Atmosphere Analyzed

AU181201 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian
13 Feb 88 p 3

[Article by Istvan Koncz: "A Crisis of Misconceptions"]

[Text] One of the respectable Western periodicals (PANORAMA No.1/88) [country of origin not further specified] recently published an article on Hungary entitled: "A Crisis-Created Value-Added Tax." The word "crisis" has increasingly recurred in commentaries informing the public about Hungary, our situation, and endeavors. As early as the fall of 1987, DIE WELT wrote: "An acute crisis is prevalent in all the European communist countries." In its issue on 3 January, THE NEW YORK TIMES predicted that Hungary would also suffer from difficulties ranging from "crises arising in Eastern Europe," through "collapse of economies," to "political crisis." According to THE INDEPENDENT (on 4 February,) "the Eastern European region is entering a critical stage of the socialist system."

We could continue quoting the pronouncements dealing with the crisis of socialism for a long time. The crisis in socialism and its forthcoming failure—sometimes expected to take place within weeks or months, at other times within more cautiously defined deadlines—have been recurringly ascertained since socialism was established. We could calmly ignore this if....

We could ignore the prediction concerning the forthcoming crisis and failure of socialism if a certain, subjective atmosphere of crisis were not felt domestically, too, and if this atmosphere were not present in sometimes narrower and sometimes wider strata of our public opinion which, of course, is considered to be an unstable factor.

I do not say that a subjective sense of crisis always lacks objective bases; such bases prevail at present, too. Threatening realities and dangerous signs are inherent in our present economic processes. It is also possible that our situation is worse than what one is able to feel. Socialism has survived several real economic, political, and even military crises and mortal danger; and an atmosphere of crisis always goes together with real crisis situations. That is, not exactly together; an atmosphere of crisis sometimes follows and sometimes precedes crisis situations. However, it is recognition which occurs at the right time and action which is taken at the right time that contribute to really averting—preventing—crisis situations.

In addition, many kinds of emotions and sentiments originating from various conflicting sources and following various conflicting directions are moving about in our present atmosphere of crisis. This atmosphere is incited by people demonstrating "everlasting" oppositional behavior or an attitude of "the worse the situation is, the better it is," and by assuming the role of a critic. Within the same atmosphere, but on the completely opposite side, one can also see the whirling accumulation of disappointments and of concern for socialism which is felt by mainly older people who think that the ideals to which they have linked their lives are endangered. Their nerves are jarred by concepts which arouse bad memories and which are reemerging, concepts like bonds, shares, stock exchange, liquidation, inflation, unemployment, private enterprises with dozens of employees, utilization of individual savings as operating social capital, and so on. However, it is not their general mood that should command our particular attention.

We should pay particular attention to the general mood of the young people; if not to the mood of all or most of the young people, then to that of very considerable masses of young people.

A New Era Emerges [Subhead]

The constraining economic situation and the impending and already perceptible deterioration in the standard of living mostly affect the young people. In certain areas they are affected even more than pensioners with small pensions. Young people are living through the present years at a period in their lives when they have to choose a career, find a job and adjust to it, and establish a family and a home for the family. These tasks cannot be postponed until a later and more favorable period. And it is precisely during this stage in their lives that changing the course of the people's economy can no longer be delayed, despite the pain and misery that accompany such a modification, because it is impossible to postpone the process of slowing down and stopping the plunge of the people's economy, and the process of making every effort and accepting every sacrifice to establish a period of stabilization. Is it any wonder that a sense of crisis and of hopelessness, political indifference, and a lack of ideology [dezideologizaltsag] prevail in many young people today? Or that these young people are able to observe the phenomenal rise of capitalist countries in the world, which were previously also backward countries, a rise which is in contrast with the discouraging facts that one can experience domestically?

Is it any wonder that they question many things, including socialist axioms and the viability of production of public property? [tarsadalmi tulajdonu termeles] Capitalist ideology applauds this questioning: "Quod erat demonstrandum," this is what the capitalists wanted to prove. Indeed, this will remain the main question on the borderline between the two social systems at the time of this thrillingly exciting, painfully beautiful great and historical emergence of a new era.

A person who only sees this indifference and these doubts, however, still evaluates the general mood of the young people superficially and mistakenly. A considerably high degree of political and ideological sensitivity is hidden beneath this surface. Even without using slogans—or words at all—one can find elementary commitment there, a will, initiative, and a willingness to act, and all these point to the existence of a social system where a man gets a share of the public property, earns his income, and obtains a chance to live a life that suits a human being, on the basis of his work and in proportion to the social value of his work (or, if you wish, the value that is acknowledged by a developed market). On the basis of his work, and in proportion to its value: What, if not this, is the essence of socialism? Would this be principle which is undergoing a crisis?

It is not socialism that is undergoing a crisis. We are only experiencing a crisis of our misconceptions. Only? This is no unimportant matter, either. Pseudo-production was under way in many of our production enterprises; we recognized this before 1968 and precisely this led to the establishment of mechanisms which were then new. Pseudo-production means producing for stockpiles and not according to market demands or needs, even if this was done according to strict centrally issued plans which were prescribed and scrupulously broken down into details. In fact, this was a case of pseudo-planning. At present, we are essentially compelled to make a similar recognition but on a higher level: What kind of economy is one in which a considerable part of its participants operate inefficiently and at a loss?

The Price of Mistakes [Subhead]

Within a period of 15 years, two enormous and also very real crises swept over the world, crises from which the strongest and richest capitalist countries—even if at the expense of shocks—emerged renewed and even richer, whereas the poorer countries emerged even poorer and in debt. Although, through its endowments, Hungary became attached to the world economy by means of a thousand threads, for a long time we had deluded ourselves that "the crisis will not affect us considerably, anyhow." But 15 years ago we could have done what we are now compelled to do at the price of less pain and smaller shocks. In addition, and contrary to all our decisions, we still continued to finance enterprise deficits from the state budget—that is, from the accumulating stock of state debts—at the end of the seventies, when the misconception inherent in the optimistic assumption that Hungary would not be affected by the world crises, that is, the fact that this is a pseudo-assumption, became public knowledge. And we continued to maintain a standard of living which, though stagnating or declining, was above the permissible level. Pseudo-humanitarian and pseudo-socialist reasons and considerations postponed the drastic step which in practice became less and less postponable. In order to protect several thousand or tens of thousands of workers from having to resort to changing their jobs after several months of unemployment—which is indeed a painful thing to do—we preferred tollow invisible unemployment, that is, pseudo-employment, to exist within the enterprises, we allowed Hungarian manpower to remain cheap, and let the whole nation bear the consequences.

Time is running out, or it has already run out. We have not at all succeeded yet in slowing down the accelerated deterioration in our economic situation. If this downward slide continues, we will really enter a crisis and end up with the situation that prevails in several Third World countries: the emergence of a thin but rich stratum, beneath which there will be mass unemployment and impoverishment. Would this situation perhaps suit our socialist principles better? And in addition to these, how many more misconceptions also exist in innumerable areas of our social, political, and cultural life?

The essence of a social order is not identical to the total sum of its economic and other methods. There are solutions that one was able to use in the past, but later—in different circumstances and in the entirely different medium of the constantly changing reality—these have turned out to be pseudo-solutions. The main subjective condition required to avoid and prevent crises is to recognize the need for change and to act, and both of these at the right time. In the meantime, we should constantly supervise each of our steps and constantly confront them with reality because, naturally, we have no other guarantee against the possibility of experimenting with pseudo-solutions again.

At present there is no crisis, that is, real crisis in Hungary. But there can be a crisis if a subjective and sometimes incited atmosphere of crisis gains the upper hand, if "concern" for socialism and a yearning for pseudo-solutions destroy the process of stabilizing the economy which was started at this, the last minute, and if a sense of temporary insecurity about survival and of hopelessness leads to blindness and to losing sight of the essence of socialism. It is precisely this last pseudo-solution—one of orientation in a nonsocialist direction as a result of disillusionment—which would be the most fatal.

Young Society [Subhead]

On a historical scale, socialism is a young society. Its viability prospects, and ability to renew itself are characterized by reform measures and by struggles that have revolutionary dynamics. Socialism is able to recognize its own misconceptions, and differentiate between these misconceptions and its own essence, and get rid of them. This is naturally not a painless process; it is sometimes a process of disillusionment and sometimes it amounts to a descent into hell. It does not offer the comforts of cheap governmental optimism and requires active convictions.

But does this process of recognition amount to a crisis? Is it not rather the beginning of something new that is developing?

Electric Power Plant Projects Expanded

AU181330 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 15 Feb 88 p 1,5

[MTI report: "Extending the Paks Nuclear Energy Plant-,Modernization at the Gagarin Thermal Power Station, New Boilers at Pecs—Turnover Tax Reduces Opportunities for Technological Development—Report by the Hungarian Electric Power Works Trust—Program for Power Plant Construction and Extending Electric Power Network"]

[Text] Some 3.4 billion forints, including the general turnover tax, can be spent this year on the single large-scale investment project of the Hungarian electric power industry—further construction of the Paks nuclear energy plant. This sum will be enough for the construction of the ancillary installations of the four already operational power blocks and the preparations for the construction of two new blocks of 1,000 megawatts each. First of all, on the basis of the IAEA stipulations, work will start on designing and preparing installations aimed at enabling the safe handling, transportation by containers, and storage of waste materials with low-and medium-level radioactivity. Condensed liquid waste materials and solid radiating materials which have been cut into small pieces will be embedded in concrete blocks; in this manner they will be prepared for transportation and burial. When the large instructional simulator aimed at supplying further regular training for the Paks workers begins operating, they will be able to study in detail important nuclear energy processes and, by means of simulating disturbances in operations, practice averting these disturbances.

In extending the Paks Nuclear Power Plant, it is most important to prepare the construction of the first 1,000 megawatt block in strict accordance with the schedule, so that the excavations required for laying the block's foundations start in June 1989. After the 72 months of work it should take to lay the foundations, the block will begin producing electric energy by means of a so-called parallel connection in June 1995, and after reaching the performance level of 1,000 megawatts, it will supply electricity to the national network. In the opinion of the Hungarian Electrical Power Works Trust [MVMT], more money is needed to implement the technological aspects of the construction program for 1988; therefore, the MVMT will ask that central measures be taken to settle the issues concerning the financial background of the program.

The people's economy plan stipulates considerably smaller sums than previously for lump-sum investments in electrical networks. Therefore, the MVMT will pay particularly close attention to making use of the limited opportunities as efficiently as possible. In the most needy locations, high voltage power transmission lines of 220, 400, and 750 kilovolts will be extended by a 134-km long section; the 120 kilovolts main distributing network will be extended by 113 km, and the low-and medium-voltage aerial power transmission line network by 1,600 km. Building these new power transmission lines, and building and extending the substations connected to them will contribute not only to increasing the reliability of the Hungarian electric power system which is connected not only to the joint system of the neighboring, primarily CEMA countries, but also to the safety of electric power transmissions and of domestic electrical power supplies.

Within the main distribution network, seven new transformer stations will be built; and on seven sites, the performance of the already existing substations will also be increased. This more modestly paced development project will make it possible to conclude the work which has already begun on developing the network, but the pace of building the connections which will ensure the transformation performance will lag behind the scheduled stipulations of the plan period.

In the case of the MVMT's investments in enterprises—for which 8.7 billion forints are allocated in 1988—the state budget will not reimburse it for the general turnover tax; as a result, the technological aspect of the development projects will also decrease in proportion to the tax. This decrease will have a particularly strong effect on implementing reconstruction programs at coal-fuelled power plants.

Out of the 22.6 billion forints allocated for reconstructiom projects during the plan period, about 2 billion forints will have to be paid as turnover tax in the coming period, up to the end of 1990. Consequently, the planned production of 200 megawatts of extra electric power, as well as several development projects at the Ajka, Borsod, Tatabanya, and Szazhalombatta power plants will stretch over to the next plan period.

Together with the turnover tax, 5.4 billion forints will be allocated for the reconstruction program in 1988. Nearly half of this will be spent on modernizing the Gagarin Thermal Power Works. Among other things, reconstruction work on Block No. 4 will be completed, in the first quarter of 1988, and the work under way at Block No. 3 will continue. The efficiency of the boilers will be considerably increased by completing by the end of 1989, the construction of the lignite blending works, works which will supply the power works with fuel which has a uniform heating value.

Work on reconstructing Block No. 3 at the Oroszlany Thermal Power Works will continue; and according to further plans, preparatory work will be done at the Pecs Thermal Power Works on the construction of boilers supplying 160 tonnes of steam per hour to replace the smaller boilers.

From among the investment projects in 1988, it is particularly important to prepare the construction of a 380-megawatts combined power block with gas and steam turbines; its purpose will be to decrease and partially supplement the expected shortage in domestic electric power production during the years prior to putting the first 1,000-megawatts Paks machine assembly plant into operation.

This is why the MVMT prepared a report urging the installation in the first stage of the new block at the Dunamenti Thermal Power Works, of a 134-megawatts unit equipped with a gas turbine and a heat exchanging boiler that is part of it by the middle of 1991. With this goal in mind, the MVMT reorganized its reconstruction plan for the Seventh 5-Year Plan in order to create the financial means required for the first stage of the project. In the second stage, a block having gas and steam turbines will be completed and be able to produce 380-megawatts of electric power, in addition to an increase of 200 megawatts in performance resulting from reconstructing the power works—all this at a critical period from the point of view of electric power supplies. The MVMT is counting on the fact that its report will soon be approved and so it will be able to conclude agreements with foreign suppliers in the coming months and begin work on this investment project still in 1988.

Briefs

HSWP Delegation Talks

Budapest, February 28(MTI)—On February 17 a delegation of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, headed by Csaba Tabajdi, deputy head of the Central Committee Foreign Affairs Department, held talks in Geneva with representatives of the Finnish Social Democratic Party and the Italian Socialist Party on the Response to the initiative concerning the cooperation of European countries which do not possess nuclear weapons, and on the preparations for a roundtable of the three countries' experts. The delegation met Finnish Foreign Minister Kalevi Sorsa, chairman of the disarmament committee of the Socialist International. [Text] [*Budapest MTI in English 1211 GMT 18 Feb 88 LD*]

Paper Calls for 'Greater Openness' With USSR
LD181419 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 0730 GMT 18 Feb 88

[From the Press Review]

[Text] "Dimensions of Friendship" is the title of a Zycie Warszawy commentary devoted to Polish-Soviet relations. Referring to the recent visit to Moscow by Polish Foreign Minister Marian Orzechowski, the author of the article writes: The fact that in the very capital of the Soviet Union an official representative of the Polish state can speak in the face of world public opinion on the need for and the mutual will to explain the past, which for many has become for decades the source of embitterment, has its great political and psychological importance. It is, however, not only a question of the past. Just as important, and for the coming generations of increasingly crucial importance, is the question of the further course of relations between Warsaw and Moscow, a question of the content, forms and climates of cooperation. In registering the dynamic development of Polish-Soviet relations in recent years and their qualitative changes, we are not generally aware, the author stresses, what a great leap has been made in this area. A greater openness in mutual relations than ever is enriching dialogue and is widening the circle of contacts. A critical look at oneself facilitates the eradication of distrust and removal of hurt. Candor in internal relations makes it obvious that there should be a departure from cliche-ridden and ostentatious forms of demonstrating friendship, the author of the Zycie Warszawy article writes.

Weekly Analyzes 'Independence' of Politics
AU101725 Warsaw RZECZYWISTOSC in Polish 31 Jan 88 pp 1, 9

[Piotr Olejnik article: "Does Polish Politics Exist?"]

[Excerpts] Poland does not have its own politics, and it is impossible for Poland to have autonomous policies. This view seems very popular in our society. It has become a kind of national way of thinking both in terms of foreign relations or foreign policy in general, and in terms of the Polish political and socioeconomic system. There is a far-reaching conviction that we are dependent on our Eastern neighbor and that this neighbor determines Polish politics, which therefore ceases to be Polish and becomes a mere extension and function of Soviet politics. One may say that this view, held mainly by the opposition and a favorite view of theirs, has penetrated the national consciousness quite deeply. It is accompanied by nostalgic sighing and memories of the interwar period, when the Second Republic allegedly had its own independent politics, not dictated by anyone outside.

The modern era really started in 1789, with the French Revolution, which shook Europe, or in other words, the whole world at that time, and completely changed its shape. This era solidified peoples into modern national states, based on expanding capitalist production relations.

Out of the 200 years that followed, Poland spent 123 in political oblivion. It ceased to exist as a state. Looking for Poland on the maps of Europe was futile. Naturally enough, there was no Polish politics either. But in fact there was one policy—an aim to regain independence. This determined Polish politics during the long years of the 19th century. It lay at the basis of national uprisings, and finally became the leitmotiv of the programs drafted by the modern political movements at the end of the century.

There were long disputes, sharp arguments, and major differences on deciding the best and shortest path to independence. But everyone agreed that independence was the number one objective and national task.

Which path to take? That was the fundamental dilemma of Polish politics and political thought in the 19th century and in the beginning of the 20th. The National Democrats called for an alliance with Russia against the German flood. The conservatives called for a model of independence based on the autonomy enjoyed by Galicia. The socialists called for independence based on a revolutionary upsurge of the working masses, uniting national and social goals. And yet all these options had one aim in mind—the reestablishment of an independent and sovereign national state. And in the end, Poland "emerged independent." Entire generations helped bring this about—Dmowski and his Paris-based Polish National Committee, Pilsudski and his legions, a nation of Poles who withheld real support for any of the sides taking part in World War I, and the proletariat of St Petersburg, Berlin, and Vienna, who swept the rapacious monarchies of the Romanovs, Hohenzollerns, and Habsburgs off the face of the earth and paved the way for the rebirth of the Polish state out of territory that belonged to all three partitioning powers.

What is it that determines Polish politics today? The answer is of course the integration of this territory and the security of its borders, which determine and safeguard the country's independence against incursions from East and West, the two directions from where the heaviest misfortune befell the old Republic. Polish politics has been determined by the heavy blows of the past, real dangers, and hostility toward the system that was built on the ruins of the empire of Nicholas II.

"Either with Germany or with Russia. There is no alternative. For the only real Polish answer—neither with Germany, nor with Russia, but against both of them—does not rule out the need to align with one or the other in certain situations." So wrote R. Dmowski in 1901, allegedly the most distinguished political writer of his day.

In its politics, the Second Republic adopted this "only real Polish answer" and effectively avoided "aligning with one or the other." A non-aggression pact with Germany, a non-aggression pact with the USSR, an alliance with the Western powers—that was the canon of Polish politics between the wars. Were these politics really as independent and autonomous as their adherents wished? Vis-a-vis Moscow, and to a lesser extent vis-a-vis Berlin, yes. Vis-a-vis Paris and London, never.

Politics are always assessed according to their effectiveness. But Polish politics between the wars did not have any. Once again the state ceased to exist, this time for 5 years.

In his "History of Stupidity in Poland," Aleksander Bochenski wrote: "The possibility of relying on Western powers is as follows. If a Western power does not have any direct interest in the region occupied by Poland, it will only enter into an alliance with Poland if it finds itself in a conflict with one of Poland's neighboring powers, Germany or Russia. In such a situation, however, the stability of this alliance depends on whether Poland is stronger than the neighboring power against which there is no conflict, because otherwise our interests will be superseded by those of the other neighboring power by virtue of the fact that one can gain a stronger ally by sacrificing a weak one. Also, there is always the possibility that after playing our role, we can be sold to yesterday's powerful enemy."

This scenario turned out to be true, and has remained valid despite all the changes in the modern world. Postwar Polish politics has drawn conclusions out of the past and has chosen the second of Dmowski's options—with Russia, with the USSR, to which our country has been joined by the social, economic, and political changes since 1944. Was there any other way? Was there any other real way out? Was the "only real Polish answer" possible? As far as foreign policy is concerned, certainly not.

Once again the problem of safeguarding the borders and territorial integrity of the country, in a new shape of course, found itself on the agenda. Because of the contribution of the Soviet Union to the victory over Hitlerism and Soviet interests, our postwar eastern frontier could obviously not be different to the one we have. Equally obvious, is the fact that our western frontier required a supporter on whom one could count in case the country that had lost some of its prewar territory to Poland questioned this frontier.

These requirements shaped Polish politics, and still do so. They lie at the roots of such independent Polish initiatives as the Rapacki, Gomulka, or Jaruzelski Plans; our activity in the CSCE process, and the normalization of relations with the FRG. All this is designed to widen the safety zone between Poland and the West, and is becoming increasingly important thanks to the support of the USSR, a world superpower.

Independent politics, politics dictated by a powerful neighbor—what do they really mean? Well, one has to say frankly that only the superpowers can afford completely independent politics today, but not even their politics are completely independent. It is they who dictate the rules of the game in the East and West.

The existence of military-political alliances and mass-destruction weapons is limiting the possibility of each state conducting independent, autonomous politics. The enormous problems of the modern world such as pollution, the disappearance of natural resources, food shortages, and population expansion have the same effect on every country. Every country has to adapt its politics to them, including Poland, whose autonomy is obviously restricted because of its allied commitments.

The fact that such restrictions exist—there is also no shortage of them among the NATO countries—and that Polish-Soviet relations have a major influence on Polish politics is an obvious truth not worth examining. What we should do is point out the other side of these restrictions. It is thanks to them that we have territorial integrity and an independent existence. In fact, it is thanks to them that we have the possibility of conducting Polish politics at all. In this context, restriction really means greater playroom. Sophistry? No, normal dialectics. Examples of this greater playroom? I have already mentioned several Polish initiatives. Were they all dictated by Moscow? If anyone asks this, all one can do is shrug because only a politically blind person could think they were.

The principle of Polish politics since the war is to safeguard the borders, independence, and sovereignty of the country on the one hand, and on the other hand establish the kind of European relations that permit maximum cooperation between every country in Europe according to the principle of mutual advantages.

The name that has been applied to this process for some time already is the "Europeanization" of the old continent. It involves overcoming political barriers and seeking anything that can unite the countries of Europe and make them bolder in defense of regional and global issues. It is in this direction that the development of modern international relations is heading, including Polish politics with its original and independent initiatives.

Politics requires resources. These are supplied mainly by the economy. The stronger a country's economy, the more independent the country's activity is, the stronger its international position, and the greater the trust shown by its partners. And most of our activity is geared to gaining greater trust.

The most important feature of modern Polish politics is building an economically strong and stable state, a state that can guarantee its people social advancement, rights and liberties, and a rising standard of living. It is in this work that the independence of Polish politics should be seen most clearly. But this is a separate topic which we will avoid for the time being and deal with in the near future in a discussion about the Polish economic and social system.

1,500 in Krakow March for Students' Union

AU181909 Paris AFP in English
1849 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb 18 (AFP)—Some 1,500 students and dissidents demonstrated Wednesday in the southern Polish city of Krakow in protest at the government's failure to recognize a banned students' union, dissidents said Thursday.

The demonstrators, who had first attended mass, marched through the campus for an hour and a half carrying torches and banners demanding that the authorities recognize the Independent Students' Association (NZS), banned in 1981 when the government declared martial law.

The students were joined by militants of two outlawed groups, the Confederation for an Independent Poland and the pacifist movement Freedom and Peace.

The protesters later gathered outside the students' hall, where several speakers invited them to "fight for recognition of the NZS."

Many plain clothes policemen watched and photographed the demonstration, but did not intervene, the sources said.

Before it was outlawed the NZS had 90,000 members, studying at the 89 colleges and universities then open in Poland.

Dissident sources said the NZS had been led since last year by the clandestine National Coordinating Committee (KKK), which includes representatives of Poland's 21 biggest higher educational establishments.

Orzechowski Meets University Rectors

AU181104 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish
16 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] PAP—On 15 February Foreign Minister Marian Orzechowski met with the rectors of the universities that cooperate with foreign scientific centers and provide training for foreign students.

At the meeting links between foreign policy, science, and the economy were discussed and it was agreed that international cooperation can be of greater help in promoting Poland's socioeconomic and cultural progress, especially at the present stage of economic reform. It was also noted that it is necessary to increase the international role and presence of Polish science and to eliminate various barriers to this. It stressed the role of science as the intellectual base of Polish foreign policy, especially of Polish peace initiatives, and discussed specific forms of cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and universities.

The meeting was attended by Boguslaw Kedzia, head of the Central Committee Department of Science, Education, and Scientific-Technological Progress, and by Henryk Bednarski, minister of National Education.

Opening the meeting, Foreign Minister M. Orzechowski said that about 40,000 persons travel abroad for educational purposes and that about 20,000 of these persons are university workers. Beginning from the fifties, over 10,000 foreigners have graduated from Polish universities. Our universities have so far signed over 720 accords on almost 3,000 scientific subjects with foreign universities. M. Orzechowski stressed that cooperation with foreign universities has reached a high level and that the present crucial task is to exploit the potential of this cooperation.

This is all the more important, he said, since it is impossible to pursue foreign policy without thoroughly analyzing the trends of the present world. Such analyses are some of the important tasks of science, which has become part and parcel of international relations and an element of competition between systems. The moral duty of scientists is to support measures to maintain peace and curb disarmament.

Aside from traditional criteria such as geography, population, and so on, scientific-technological progress is an extremely important element of the state's role in the world, M. Orzechowski said. This progress gives rise to and influences East-West competition, but it also engenders the need for cooperation. Poland is and wants to be an active participant in cooperation.

M. Orzechowski asked the rectors to submit their views about the effectiveness of scientific cooperation, about popularizing Polish scientific achievements, about eliminating obstacles to cooperation, and about solving other difficulties.

The rectors stressed that scientific cooperation is in the interest of universities and should be geared to the interests of the economy and foreign policy. Professor Jacek Fisiak, rector of Poznan University, said that the Ministry of Education and other ministries should support this cooperation, which should acquire new forms. Minister Bednarski stressed the importance of these new forms.

Professor Grzegorz Bialkowski, rector of Warsaw University, said that visits, delegations, and even conferences should not be the main features of cooperation, but that more attention should be paid to research and to organizing joint scientific teams. It is also necessary to establish direct contacts with the units of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. Scientific cooperation, he said, can be of increased help in developing modern branches of science and technology, in obtaining scientific apparatus, and so on. This would help us to solve more effectively the problem of letting some of our scientific workers remain abroad. As for training foreigners in Poland, he said, we should use foreign languages in studies for doctor's degrees, develop other forms of the study of the Polish language, as is done at the Warsaw University Polish Language Center, and promote regional studies.

Speaking on this subject, Professor Hieronim Kubiak from the Institute of Research into Polish Language in Krakow, said that it should be made possible to study Poland without having to know the Polish language. Many universities are ready to organize such studies.

The meeting also discussed the issue of more extensively exploiting cooperation with the socialist countries and of promoting scientific contacts with developing countries and noted the need to level off disproportions in cooperation with capitalist countries, because contacts with some of these countries are not up to these countries' scientific potential and achievements.

Sejm Resolution on Economic Reform

AU171211 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 12 Feb 88 pp 1, 3

["Resolution on the Program for Implementing the Second Stage of the Economic Reform and on the Activity of Workers' Self-Management Bodies in State Enterprises"—PAP headline]

[Text] I. [Roman one]

The Sejm declares that, in the final years of the first stage of the economic reform, the national economy's system of functioning experienced many new developments conforming to the reform's chief principles. These were implemented in an exceptionally difficult economic situation and at a time of restrictions. At the same time, old solutions and customs were still in force. Economic activity was accompanied by the simultaneous departure of the old system and the introduction of the new one. All this had a negative effect on economic results, and hence did not encourage confidence in the reform.

Speaking out in favor of continuing the economic and social reforms, the 10th PZPR Congress regarded it urgent and essential to introduce new legal, economic, and organizational solutions in order to accelerate the reform and achieve economic equilibrium sooner.

The Sejm declares that the government's draft program for implementing the second stage of the reform satisfies the need to heal the economy, which forms the material basis for socialist renewal and social development.

The Sejm declares that the program is characterized by a tendency to fundamentally restructure the state economic system. This restructuring involves such important matters as changes to the structure and functioning of central institutions, an expansion of market mechanisms, and the development of enterprise. There is a visible trend toward a greater variety of economic organizations, greater flexibility in deploying factors of production, greater freedom in employing profits, and a greater openness toward foreign capital. The draft program displays an aim to rationalize economic parameters in order to create an objective basis for analysis of cost-effectiveness and the elimination of ineffective undertakings. It envisages progress in the functioning and a clear increase in the role of the banking system. The Sejm appreciates the correct application of economizing measures, the creation of the necessary conditions to encourage private enterprise, and the encouragement for citizens to purchase bonds and shares in enterprises.

The Sejm considers it particularly important that the program for implementing the second stage of the reform has recognized that market equilibrium should mainly be achieved by expanding and accelerating market competition, and not just by controlling supply by means of price increases.

The Sejm believes that small-scale industry and handicrafts are an important factor in achieving market equilibrium. Therefore, they should have more favorable conditions in order to increase their production and services.

The Sejm believes that in order to achieve the above objectives, it is essential to fulfill the following conditions, which take into account the successes and failures of the reform's first stage:

—Working out clear, reliable legal-economic solutions and rational principles of managing and governing the state;

—Creating a comprehensive program of rationalizing and modernizing of the structure of the economy;

—Increasing society's involvement in implementing the reform by raising its energy and effectiveness in professional work.

The fulfillment of these conditions should lead to economic equilibrium and stable economic mechanisms. The result could be an economic state that permits a continuous increase in the standard of living and provides the basis for settling our foreign debts.

II. [Roman two]

The Sejm believes that, in order to increase supply, it is necessary to encourage the development of enterprise and innovation in all sectors of the economy by increasing the independence of enterprises, creating adequate legal-economic regulations, limiting the rights and duties of parent bodies, and facilitating the creation of new economic units. The Sejm declares that it is the particular duty of state bodies to create the right conditions for better management by state enterprises, whose results possess the greatest importance for the country and society. The following act as a brake on enterprise and workers' initiative:

—An absence of clear rules whereby wage funds depend on production results; —An insufficient basis for factory wage systems whereby wages are closely dependent on results.

The Sejm asks the government to step up work leading to rational solutions in this sphere, especially those that may result in a greater incentive to increase productivity.

The Sejm believes that work should be speeded up on a draft law on far-reaching concessions for economic activity and on a draft law on companies.

The performance of the tasks in scientific-technological and organizational progress should ensure greater manufacture of modern commodities with suitable high quality and fulfilling the requirements of economic efficiency. It is correct to lengthen the list of legal instruments which make enterprises interested in scientific-technological progress. That is why the Sejm considers it essential to formulate a program of action to make this progress more profitable. In the Sejm's opinion, a closer connection between science and technology on the one hand, and production on the other, requires that scientific progress be coordinated with the program of modernizing the national economy, especially with the development of industry and agriculture, and the program of investments in both areas.

The Sejm believes that the quality of production and services achieved in recent years is most unsatisfactory. As a result, the national economy is going to suffer millions of zlotys' worth of damage caused by waste of materials, energy, and manpower. Therefore, it is very important to introduce undertakings designed to bring about an improvement in this sphere.

The Sejm agrees that it is necessary to verify the investments program contained in the National Socioeconomic Plan. This verification should result in the following:

—More processing industries;

—New investment undertakings aimed at improving the coproduction of commodities.

At the same time, funds for investment purposes should be kept under control in order to prevent their inflation.

It is essential to transform the whole of construction radically and thoroughly. Construction results, especially in housing, are encountering justified criticism among society. The same applies to the renovation of housing.

The Sejm considers it essential to introduce a rational system of utilizing natural resources. The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources should have greater influence on investment processes, especially on the construction of major premises designed to protect the environment.

The Sejm considers correct the plans for progress in agriculture and the food economy and the activity designed to make agricultural output profitable, abolish meat rationing, and eliminate the monopolies in procuring and selling food commodities.

Foreign trade is one of the areas to which the economic reform has furnished rich economic-financial and organizational solutions. Their implementation permits the development of exports and increased CEMA cooperation.

The Sejm welcomes the planned institutional conditions for the development of social services, especially medical services.

III.[Roman three]

The Sejm accepts and stresses the importance of the general lines of the reform embodied in the postulates that the currency should be strengthened and made convertible, that the economic parameters of prices, exchange rates, and interest rates should be brought closer to reality, and that the internal and external fiscal balance of the economy should be promoted.

The Sejm notes that the measures of the program to eliminate inflation are not exhaustive.

The Sejm notes that one of the most urgent tasks is to master the movement of prices and wages in order to avoid uncontrolled inflation, which may result from price adjustments. Increases in contracted prices must go hand in hand with measures to tighten the economic rules of money and bank policy, which should act as protection against inflationary changes in prices and wages.

Bank measures should no longer replace budget measures in supporting unprofitable ventures. In this connection, the Sejm supports the verification of the principles in line with which fiscal investments backed by budgetary resources are implemented. It also supports the measures to clarify the relation between the budget and the loan plan, including the principles in line with which the state budget's debts to the Polish National

Bank are repaid. It is extremely to strengthen the role of the Polish National Bank. The program does not link the establishment and operations of commercial banks to the new interest rates policy, which helps to offset the results of inflation—an elementary condition of commercialism. Increasing the interest rate on loans would be of great importance for the natural selection of investments and increasing the interest rate on savings would be a crucial factor in economically exploiting the population's surplus cash.

Domestic convertibility of the zloty into hard currencies is an important task. External convertibility requires not only that prices be brought closer to worldwide levels, but that hard currencies should also be amassed as a result of the balance-of-payments surpluses over many years. That is why we should support the measures that provide for the necessary adjustments of the zloty's exchange rate against hard currencies and for establishing the guidelines of the exchange rate policy aimed at the convertibility of the zloty.

Resolute action to expand access to rational hard currency imports is necessary. Correctly implemented imports can be beneficial, but this calls for greater freedom in hard currency dealings and for reducing the central official distribution of convertible currencies.

The Sejm is in favor of basic changes in taxation policy in order to promote the enterprising spirit and to stimulate the militancy and effectiveness of vocational and professional work. Switching over to taxation of the population's total incomes calls for taking into account motivational factors and for the elimination of all limits on work and wages.

IV. [Roman four]

The Sejm believes that the reform of the state apparatus must not be restricted to central bodies and that local administration should also be reformed.

It is right that the implementation program provides for granting legal status to local bodies and for introducing communal property in the future.

Central supervision over local administrative bodies must be sorted out at once. This supervision should cover national issues.

The development of various forms of the cooperative movement should be taken more fully into account in triggering initiative and the individual and collective enterprising spirit. The people's councils and the bodies of the cooperative and workers self-management must cooperate closely in launching local socioeconomic projects.

The Sejm stresses the importance of consistent efforts to consolidate the role of workers self-management bodies and to increase the effectiveness of these bodies in production activities.

Active workers councils have used their powers to the extent to which enterprises could actually claim independence and financial autonomy. Despite positive features, attempts to curb the role, powers, and legal functions of the self-management bodies have continued to occur in enterprises.

The Sejm notes that it is necessary to closely define measures to strengthen self-management, to set up self-management bodies wherever they have still not been set up, despite legal provisions, and to introduce these bodies into the enterprises and institutions in which they can effectively help to expedite tasks. This last measure calls for modifying the law in force.

The implementation program is correct in reducing the list of enterprises which are of fundamental importance for the national economy and in which the founding bodies appoint managers. This will correspondingly increase the powers of the workers councils.

The Sejm notes that efforts to increase the commitment of self-management bodies to enterprises' economic affairs are an extremely important condition for realizing the economic reform and for the effective performance of its mechanisms. Accelerating the speed of economic development and the use of increasingly efficient economic mechanisms will create conditions and the demand for efforts to intensify the self-management militancy of the work forces. That is why it is the duty of the state bodies to create conditions for development and to enable workers self-management bodies to fully exploit their powers.

The Sejm accepts and approves the report submitted by the Commission for Self-Management Issues, shares the report's views and position on key questions of the development of the self-management movement, and acknowledges the report's proposals. At the same time, the Sejm confirms the complete validity of the proposals contained in its resolution of 18 December 1986 on the performance of the work forces' self-management bodies operating in state enterprises. It also confirms the validity of the recommendations contained in that resolution.

The high position of the work forces' self-management bodies must go hand in hand with the high responsibility of these bodies for the economy of enterprises.

In the current economic situation, and in view of the need to increase activity on the part of all social forces in order to speed up the rate of socioeconomic development and self-management activity, the Sejm deems it essential to:

—Focus the attention of self-management bodies on the most important enterprise problems; this particularly applies to increasing output and improving its quality, combating waste, economizing on materials, and stepping up the production of goods for export; self-management bodies should make extensive use of their powers to launch control initiatives and undertakings;

—Expand various initiatives by self-management bodies with a view to enhancing a feeling of joint responsibility for enterprise management on the part of all work forces;

—Increase employee council influence on the efficient use of cadres, cadre policy, the development of a system for the selection and expansion of managerial cadres, the creation of a favorable climate for the work of managerial cadres, and consistent observance of the principle of competition in the selection of candidates for managerial posts; this is particularly important with respect to increasing the powers of self-management bodies in cadre matters;

—Introduce a system for improving the knowledge of activists in the self-management bodies and the economic education of work forces; the Sejm calls on the government to request enterprise parent bodies to take up these matters;

—Effectively support the more extensive use of group forms of labor organizations.

In view of the need to further strengthen the Sejm's supervision of self-management, it should become more customary for Sejm commissions that deal with economic issues to take up self-management issues and deputies, and council members should increase their links with work force self-management bodies. It is essential to take steps to ensure the legal protection of activists in self-management bodies, increase efficiency in the resolution of disputes, and, at the same time, step up activity aimed at eliminating cases in which self-management powers are used for action that runs counter to the role of self-management bodies.

The implementation program correctly envisages the need to create new economic units on a more extensive scale and to provide them with different organizational structures. However, enterprise associations should be created when their economic soundness is established and on a completely voluntary basis from the point of view of those who establish them.

The Sejm stresses the importance of efficiently drawing up the necessary legislation stemming from the second stage of the economic reform. A matter of particular urgency is the review of regulations and the rescinding of those regulations that hamper the functioning of the reform in enterprises and in the economic life of the country. The Sejm calls on the government to create a system for examining the efficiency of economic legislation and to improve regulations on the basis of the results that are produced.

V. [Roman five]

The PPR Sejm approves the modified implementation program for the second stage of the economic reform and states that the program creates an opportunity for comprehensively adapting the economic, legal, and organizational regulations in the economy to suit the goals of national socioeconomic development.

The basic condition for using these opportunities is the full involvement of all working people. The managerial, technical, and organizational cadres have a particular role to play in the functioning of the national economy; this particularly applies to the production sphere. The level of cadre activity will to a large extent determine the rate at which intensive methods of expansion are used in the economy. It is essential to introduce objective methods for evaluating the work of the managerial cadre and the system for paying directors connected with it.

The Sejm believes that the second stage of the economic reform should lead to a significant improvement in the principles and methods of good management. This makes it possible to increase the economic results that are obtained. However, one condition for this is the preparation of a program for modernizing and improving the efficiency of structures in the national economy. This is an urgent task, which must be accomplished at the same time as the mechanisms of the second stage of the economic reform are put into practice.

The appropriateness of specific legal, economic, and organizational regulations will be of great importance for the success of the second stage of the economic reform. The Sejm must take additional, extraordinary steps and measures in the legislative field and in examining and inspecting the implementation of the reform program, in order to ensure the reliability and effectiveness of the adjustments contained in the second stage of the reform of the national economy.

Second Stage Implementation

AU171503 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 15 Feb 88 p 4

[PAP report: "Summary of the Implementation Program for the Second Stage of Economic Reform"]

[Text] In connection with the Sejm's adoption of the implementation program of the second stage of the economic reform, we wish to recall the main guidelines of the first part of that program.

Goals and Lines of Activities, Expected Results [subhead]

The second stage of the economic reform is to initiate a new functioning of the socialist economy in Poland. The new economic mechanism is a must in order to completely eliminate the crisis and waste and to fully exploit initiative and material resources. We must meet the challenge of the time and satisfy the working people's aspirations to better living conditions.

Evaluation of the First Stage [subhead]

Although we crucially changed the economic system in the first 5 years of the reform, we were unable to fulfill the original expectation that the full reform program could be realized within 2 or 3 years. The previous methods of economic management were not fully abandoned and it was not possible to achieve balance and thus to enable the market to play its desirable role in flexibly developing the performance and increasing the effectiveness and innovating prowess of enterprises. Dangerous signs began to appear that an ineffective system might come to stay, a system in which the independence of enterprises becomes feeble and distorted as a result of the existence of various forms of restrictive administrative measures and direct management.

The objective and subjective reasons for these delays were comprehensively analyzed, and the government's annual reports on the course of the economic reform continued to be presented to the Sejm. Objective reasons were compounded of the results of the extremely difficult economic situation of the country weighed down by the burden of foreign debts. This difficult situation was made even worse by the economic restrictions imposed by the Western states. Under these circumstances the government's policy of protecting the consumption of society, especially that of its poorest segments, was bound to badly affect the country's investment potential and the implementation of the necessary changes in the economy. Subjective reasons were compounded primarily of conservative attitudes, which are based on old habits and which assert themselves among segments of the central and local administrations and of managing cadres in enterprises. The complicated sociopolitical situation, which continues to hinder various adjustments, including price adjustments necessary for the health of the economy, also played an important role. Many such factors still continue to hinder the realization of the reform program.

Main Goals of the Reform [subhead]

The main goal of the reform is to transform the economy so it is able to achieve a much higher effectiveness of management and to ensure fuller exploitation of our economic potential in order to better meet the population's various needs. The Polish community is aware that our potential continues to be badly utilized and wasted, forgetting at times that this is often so because of low productivity, bad quality of products, and poor workmanship. This is responsible for the fact that Poland's present place in the world is out of tune with our national aspirations. The necessity to radicalize the reform measures was emphasized by the 10th PZPR Congress, and the present implementation program for the second stage of the economic reform is a concrete embodiment of this emphasis.

This program seeks to create a system of the socialist economy based on the following guidelines:

—Since self-management is the basic feature of socialist economic management, it is necessary to develop and strengthen all forms of self-management, especially territorial self-management and work forces' self-management bodies;

—Since the state is basically responsible for economic processes, its agencies possess many instruments, especially economic ones, with which to influence these processes, but certain administrative instruments are also allowed, including bans on energy-intensive production, for example;

—State agencies do not daily intervene in the performance of individual enterprises, save for exceptional cases;

—Economic units in all sectors—the state, cooperative, and private sectors—enjoy facilities for pursuing economic activities at their own risk on the principle of independence and fiscal autonomy; the principles of the performance of economic enterprises and units in various sectors are defined in such a way as to ensure for them the same conditions for consistent performance in the course of many years.

The realization of these measures will be facilitated by Poland's active participation in the transformation of the mechanisms of the economic integration within CEMA and the changes in economic management in the socialist countries.

Promoting Public Participation [subhead]

The economic reform means more that transforming economic mechanisms. The economic reform is part and parcel of the continued process of socialist renewal in our country. The effectiveness of the reform of our economic system makes it necessary to ensure that changes in economic mechanisms run parallel with changes in the public and political areas. These changes should ensure that the community actively participates in the efforts to create conditions for socioeconomic development, institutional solutions, and the principles of communal living. This can be achieved by changing the functions of the socialist state, by democratizing life, promoting self-government and self-management, and transforming political institutions.

The program for the second stage of the economic reform has sought from the very beginning to increase public commitment to the processes of repairing the economy. At the same time, the program stipulates that the second necessary condition for success is to ensure a strong central authority that represents the interests of the entire community and is able to oppose the pressure of parochial interests in branches and regions. However, the strength of this authority must not be based on making circumstantial decisions on petty matters, on intervening daily in the performance of enterprises, and on continuously running economic units. The bodies of authority must be relieved of having to run the affairs of individual enterprises, of the duty to eliminate of individual difficulties, and of the responsibility for the economy of enterprises, which is the task of workers and control bodies. The strength of the authority in the economy consists of influencing the course of economic processes. It is the state that determines the general strategy of the country's development and imparts the necessary direction to economic processes with the help of many economic and fiscal devices. The state also determines the principles in line with which economic activities can be promoted and defines the economic and fiscal conditions for these activities in all sectors of state, cooperatives, and private property [wlasnosc].

Balancing the Economy by Increasing Supply [subhead]

Concerning economic changes, a key problem is how to rid the economy as quickly as possible of its chief burden the lack of equilibrium. The rapid attainment of economic equilibrium is an objective necessity, not a question of choice. Institutional changes should permit it. However, experience shows that attaining this equilibrium is the most difficult matter. Worn out by inflation and shortages of goods, Polish society, even though it is in favor of radical action in order to heal the economy, fears that the only way to attain economic equilibrium is by raising prices.

The program for implementing the second stage of the reform lays the chief stress not on raising prices, but on increasing the profitability of supply more quickly. The point is not a universal increase in production, but only such an increase brought about by an improvement in productivity; reduction in waste; rational employment; a sparing use of fuels and energy; a use of by products; and proper management over fixed assets.

Assuring such an increase in supply under Polish conditions requires bold support for enterprise and innovation, coupled with a full respect for the law. Young people are faced with an unlimited possibility of developing their ideas and using their initiative. The development of enterprise permits every young Pole to fulfill his personal ambitions.

The increase in supply must be accelerated by means of structural changes to the economy, especially by increasing exports and foreign exchange. As far as the domestic economy is concerned, the causes of waste must be eliminated by closing down chronically inefficient enterprises and granting concessions for production according to the needs of the market. These changes will also involve a transfer of manpower, which must remain a subject of concern for state social policy. In no way can this transfer affect the general right to work. Structural changes to the economy also require a balanced investment market and greater efficiency of investment processes, coupled with proper management of fixed assets. There should be a review of investment projects in order to assess their technological modernity and economic profitability.

The Significance of the Structure of Prices and Incomes [subhead]

The economy cannot be balanced out without altering prices and incomes. Balancing the economy is the most difficult task to perform because it has to involve price increases, which in turn must be accompanied by rises in incomes. The market prices of goods must reflect the real relationship between supply and demand, whereas incomes must provide a fair indication of work results. Performing these tasks requires resolute action and society's understanding that in order to lift the country to a higher level, we have to carry a weight which no one else will carry for us.

The program for implementing the second stage of the reform cannot promise an immediate improvement to the standard of living. A part of society may experience a certain deterioration in their standard of living because of the reduced possibility of easy earnings without efficient work. The program makes sure that the situation of old-age and invalidity pensioners does not deteriorate. However, there are immediate possibilities of a clear increase in income for all those who work energetically, display initiative and enterprise, and are not afraid of creative effort.

Such varied possibilities of earnings are fair. The principles governing wages in various professions and spheres of production, as well as in social services, will be changed. By removing accumulated inefficiency and injustice, especially their causes, incomes will become purely dependent on the production results of enterprises.

Balancing the economy is a primary condition in order to strengthen the zloty. The zloty strengthening program worked out by the Polish National Bank ought to be considered a part of this government program for implementing the second stage of the reform. In rare cases where there are differences in ideas, for example concerning the valuation of fixed assets, the provisions of the government program are to be applied.

The Prospects of Improving the Economic Situation [subhead]

What should one expect as a result of the program for implementing the second stage of the reform?

If the program is implemented consistently, then within the space of 3-4 years the country should be rid of the effects of the crisis and daily life should be rid of the burden of market shortages, inflation, and faulty work by various public services. We are striving to create the kind of economy which:

— Gives every able-bodied citizen the chance to improve his standard of living by means of good work and creative initiative;

— Eases the burdens of every housewife by improving the market and guaranteeing the continuity of supplies and the development of services;

—Ensures proper care for old-age and invalidity pensioners, the handicapped, and persons on social security.

This cannot be achieved without society's understanding and full cooperation. The program is not easy to implement, and calls for a joint transition through a difficult period of organizational and institutional alterations, especially to prices and incomes. The greater our joint determination to carry this weight, the sooner it will be possible to reach our objective.

As far as the general economic structure is concerned, the program brings the following:

—In 1987, a fundamental change to the functioning and organization of the center of economic management and possibilities of new undertakings in various economic spheres and sectors;

—In 1988, a clear step ahead in attaining domestic economic equilibrium, an increased role of the market, and a more rapid increase in supply, as well as an increase in foreign trade;

—In 1989, a further move toward economic equilibrium, major progress in stabilizing currency exchange rates, and the stabilization of wage systems;

—In 1990, the final attainment of domestic equilibrium and a reduction in inflation to about 9 percent per year;

—In 1991, a stable balance of payments and preparations to reduce our debts;

—In subsequent years, a complete normalization of the country's payments situation, which will permit permanent economic growth and the zloty's complete convertibility on the world market.

The minimum expected of the program for implementing the second stage of the reform is that it will guarantee the institutional conditions necessary to implement the 1986-90 National Socioeconomic Plan. Without the institutional changes contained in the program, it would not be possible to implement the plan. Nevertheless, the program expresses an ambition to achieve better production growth figures than the ones in the National Socioeconomic Plan thanks to a broad liberation of economic energy and human initiative.

This list of expected results depends on consistent, thorough action and on society's commitment in implementing the program. It will not implement itself. It needs greater mobilization of forces in preparing for the planned activity and performing it.

One should expect certain disruptions and discrepancies as a result of the introduction of market forces to the economy and the decentralization of decisionmaking. There is no other way to economic health, therefore one must prepare for it by being flexible and adaptable. The creation of suitable material and financial reserves is of major importance here. Therefore, one of the program's major tasks is to create these reserves by means of a gradual rationalization of management and by normalizing payments relations with foreign countries.

Three Activity Blocks [subhead]

The tasks covered by the program for the implementation of the second stage of the economic reform have been set out in a subject schedule. Every task has been assigned an organ of the state administration responsible for its implementation, and the other organs involved, and a completion date.

The total number of tasks have been divided into three activity blocks:

Block A. Attaining equilibrium in the economy by encouraging an increase in supply.

Block B. Attaining equilibrium in the economy by strengthening the currency, reorganizing the structure of prices and incomes, and introducing realistic economic criteria.

Block C. The reorganization of the system for running the economy.

The entire subject schedule has been divided up into 14 sections. The first block of activities contains the following sections:

—the expansion of the market, enterprise, and entrepreneurial initiative;

—technical and organizational progress, and improving investment processes and the management of fixed assets;

—the expansion of export-oriented activity and cooperation with foreign countries;

—progress in agriculture and the food economy;

—the creation of conditions for effecting a breakthrough in housing construction and local economies.

The second block of activities covers the following sections:

—the reorganization of the prices and incomes structure, the strengthening of the currency and the introduction of realistic economic criteria;

—improving the wages and social benefits systems and introducing changes to the labor code;

—the expansion of the banking system.

The third block of activities covers:

—the reorganization of central institutions responsible for running the economy.

—changes to central planning.

—the expansion and consolidation of regional self-management.

—the consolidation of self-management in economic and social and vocational activity.

—improvements to the legal and inspection systems covering economic activity.

Council of State Ratifies Official Agreements

LD182157 Warsaw PAP in English
1850 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb 18—The Council of State today ratified:

—An agreement between the Polish and British Governments on assistance and mutual protection of investment projects, signed in London on December 8, 1987.

—An agreement between the Polish Government and the Governments of Belgium and Luxembourg on assistance and mutual protection of investment projects, signed in Warsaw on May 19, 1987,

—An agreement on the creation of a joint organization, interoceanmetal, with a view to conduct works in the field of ferrous-manganous concretion prospecting and preparation for industrial use, signed in Moscow on April 27, 1987,

—An agreement between the Government of Poland and the Government of Greece on avoiding double taxation in the range of income and property tax, signed in Athens on November 20, 1987,

—An agreement on cooperation and mutual assistance in seizing and returning cultural goods illegally brought across the borders of states, compiled in Plovdiv on April 22, 1986.

The Council of State stressed the importance of Poland's signing of the agreement on cooperation and mutual assistance in seizing and returning cultural goods illegally brought across the borders of states. The Council of State stated that the agreement protects cultural goods to a greater extent than other conventions because it secures not only the seizure but also the return of cultural goods to the state which they were illegally brought from.

Reviews Civil Conventions

LD190017 Warsaw PAP in English
1949 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 18—The Council of State met today to review reports on the first experience derived from the activities of civil consultative conventions attached to voivodship people's councillors.

Civil consultative conventions have been formed in 16 voivodships. They group representatives of many opinion-forming milieus, socio-professional groups of diverse political orientations and world outlooks. Their social composition is in tandem with the programmatic guideline of the conventions which boils down to the creation of a new plane for shaping views on matters significant for regions and voivodships, to deepening the idea of national agreement, influencing socio-economic policy as well as attracting ever more numerous social groups to active participation in its implementation.

Matters which are to be tackled by the conventions include those tied with the prospects and determinants of the development of respective voivodships. Some conventions plan to discuss issues of nationwide importance, such as cadre policies, the determinants of economic reform, development of nuclear power and the like.

The subject matter tackled by the conventions reflects current socio-political events such as: The referendum, preparations of amendments to the electoral law and ongoing consultations on amendments to the law on the system of people's councils and local self-government.

The Council of State expressed appreciation for the works of civil consultative conventions attached to voivodship people's councillors. It was stated that civil consultative conventions were an example of the openness of the authorities of local level of dialogue with all groups and social milieus and readiness and will to capitalize on the motions and conclusions of the representatives of these milieus. Civil concern for the social and economic development of the country is the only criterium of participation in this dialogue. The practice of the open character of civil consultative conventions was deemed correct and so was offering cooperation to people willing to join them.

The Council of State acquainted itself with proposals of changes in the budgetary system of people's councils and proposals—compiled by the Office of the Council of Ministers—to secure the cohesiveness of specific laws with the law on the system of people's councils and local self-government. The said reports presented detailed solutions which are an elaboration of proposals of amendments to the law on the system of people's councils and local self-government of July 20, 1983, now under social consultations.

Following an initial review, the Council of State entrusted the team which worked out the draft guidelines of amendments to the law on the system of people's councils and local self-government with the task of analyzing the discussed documents. The Council of State saw a need to review the proposals along with the opinions gathered during the consultations.

PZPR Politburo Approves Various Reforms

LD092002 Warsaw PAP in English
1930 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 9—The PUWP CC Political Bureau today discussed and approved concrete undertakings concerning the reform of the economy and state, including those stemming from the 6th plenary session of the Central Committee. These undertakings lead to an expansion of people's power, development of self-government, strengthening of the state and a consistent and firm implementation of the economic reform.

The Political Bureau acquainted itself with information on the course of a friendly visit to Poland paid by Secretary General of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia CCA CC Milos Jakes, highly assessing and approving its results.

PRON Executive Committee Presidium Meets

LD090426 Warsaw PAP in English
1950 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 8—The presidium of the executive committee of the National Council of the Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth PRON met here today to hear a report on Poland's socio-political situation against the introduction of the second stage of the economic reform. The meeting was chaired by Jan Dobraczynski.

The Executive Committee Presidium highly held the attitude of Polish society which accepted the difficult decisions on prices with civic maturity.

The decisions are a significant part of comprehensive solutions of the second stage of the economic reform and should be examined together with the change of rules of the economy's functioning and the striving for animating economic initiatives, enterprise, production growth and supply of goods and services.

PRON will expect a systematic introduction of new solutions into the economy, and above all, an effective check on inflation tendencies.

The presidium heard a report on the annual working debate on cooperation of national fronts and movements and on the preparations for the 7th meting of national fronts and movements from socialist and befriended countries, to take place in Bucharest in 1990.

Barcikowski Discusses Nuclear Dump Issue

PM091025 Zielona Gora GAZETA LUBUSKA in Polish
25 Nov 87 pp 1-2

[Report signed "BRJ, CG" on 24 November Miedzyrzecz meeting between Kazimierz Barcikowski, deputy chairman of the Council of State and PZPR Politburo member, and residents of Miedzyrzecz]

[Excerpts] One could have expected a very stormy meeting. Even a few weeks before, Miedzyrzecz was by no means a quiet town. Previous visits scheduled to consider the question of the possible siting of a radioactive waste storage facility in bunkers situated within the Miedzyrzecz Fortified Area [MRU] took place in a tense, agitated atmosphere. You would have thought that the issue would also dominate yesterday's meeting between residents of Miedzyrzecz and Kazimierz Barcikowski, Politburo member, PZPR Central Committee secretary, and deputy chairman of the Council of State. However, it appears that such speculation is often no better than reading tea leaves, and that in addition to being concerned about the prospect of the troublesome deposit on their doorstep, the people of Miedzyrzecz are also interested in all pressing issues concerning our country today. [Passage omitted]

As K. Barcikowski said, society will in the future express its opinion on any changes to be made in the constitution.

Calling for democracy is not just calling for a chance to speak on the most important issues affecting the life of the country. It also forces us to assume responsibility, in the same way, for example, as happens in family life. [passage omitted]

"What will be the future shape of self-government structures?" This question was raised by Waldemar Sidor. He was given the following answer:

"Out of the existing number of about 2,500 people's councils, only 220 are at the moment financially independent. We would like to see them all independent. This requires altering the structure of the budget and amending several legislative acts. The aim is this: The councils should play the role of local self-government to a much greater extent. Some people have been saying that it would help to strengthen the position of people's councils if the functions of voivoda and head of local administrative authority were to be merged with that of chairman of a people's council. This is not a good idea. On the other hand, an expansion of the functions of professional self-government might be a sensible move. Among other things, we intend to agree to the creation of medical practitioners' chambers."

The role of self-government structures will increase. Even now, they already speak out on matters of concern to their constituents. This aspect was raised by Zofia Krawczyk, who spoke about Miedzyrzecz Town and Parish People's Council's opposition to the plan to site the radioactive waste storage facility in the area.

Zofia Krawczyk, who heads the Town and Parish PRON [Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth] Council, reported on the progress of the movement's efforts to have the fortifications properly surveyed. The issue is still unresolved.

"No decision has yet been made as to the future of MRU. I can give you a definite assurance of this following an inquiry into the matter, which was conducted by the Chancellery of the Council of State," said Kazimierz Barcikowski in reply to the doubts expressed by his interlocutors, "but, on the other hand, decisions of this kind are not made in the streets. I understand the concern felt by the local population, but I cannot approve the method of using street demonstrations to oppose controversial decisions. The rules of law and order must be observed, by ecologists as well as anyone else. And that is why it was a good thing that the local authorities applied to our highest scientific authority, the Polish Academy of Sciences, to carry out a relevant study. People who instigate demonstrations are certainly not helping the residents of Miedzyrzecz to solve their problem. Who are the people from the WIP [Freedom and Peace] movement? They are those who already know that we ought to disarm. We would do this willingly if we only had a guarantee of security. But somehow we hear no news of the Bundeswehr volunteering to relinquish its tanks and turn them into scrap metal." Kazimierz Barcikowski went on to say that no one is keen to make adventurist decisions. No one wishes to place a cuckoo's egg in Miedzyrzecz's nest, but nonetheless a site must be found for storage. Any decision made in this matter will be based on a most scrupulous analysis of all questions involved.

Some people had predicted that yesterday's meeting would be a stormy one. However, we have now seen proof that serious issues can be discussed both calmly and rationally.

Later, Kazimierz Barcikowski met with members of Miedzyrzecz Town and Parish PRON Presidium. PRON activists again stated their position with regard to the question of utilization of MRU facilities.

K. Barcikowski assured the presidium members that all decisions in the matter will be subject to the necessary agreements having been reached, including one with the local PRON council.

SCINTEIA Calls for Interest Rate Cuts

AU181236 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
1129 GMT 18 Feb 88

["SCINTEIA on 'Interest Rates Manoeuvre'"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES 18/2/1988 Romania, President Nicolae Ceausescu considers that the neocolonialist policy of spoliation and oppression promoted by the financial-banking capital, by the transnational monopolies powerfully affect the developing countries, their peoples' living standard and neverthless, and end to such a state of affairs requires serious endeavours and intensified activity for a radical change in the situation of the international economic and financial relations, a commentary in "SCINTEIA" of February 18 shows. As a measure to attain this goal, the Romanian head of state suggested the calling of an international financial conference, as soon as possible, which should discuss the developing countries' foreign debt problem in particular, and bring about an immediate passage to a substantial cut in banking interest rates.

The interest rates manoeuvre became, beside other levers in point of value like foreign trade prices and exchange rates a powerful instrument of neocolonialist domination and exploitation the "efficiency" of which is, maybe, more truthfully mirrored in the dimensions of the external debt. Furthermore, growing instability in currency markets, the high interest rates policy contribute to speeded-up fall in the value of coins and faster inflationist process in the debtor countries, which caused the outflow of autochthonous capitals.

Referring to the dearness of the international credit and the spoliatory practices of the financial-banking capital exercised in the granting-of the respective credits, the newspaper shows that, virtually, what is done with one hand is taken back with two. In this respect the newspaper gives the example of the Latin American countries for which the foreign debt burden became an obstacle in their development path.

Life proves the realism and opportuneness of Romania's proposals for the initiation of an authentic dialogue to be attended by all states with a view to finding global political and economic solutions to the foreign debt problem, as part of the general efforts for the surmounting of the current world economic crisis, for the liquidation of underdevelopment and the building of a new world economic order. Taking consistent action for the replacement of the old inequitable relations of some states' getting rich at the expense of other with new, equitable and democratic relations, Romania espouses historical demands and the idea of general progress, "SCINTEIA" shows in conclusion.

SCINTEIA Condemns Reactionary Campaign

AU181936 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
1841 GMT 18 Feb 88

["Anticommunism—An Expression of the Virulent Ideology of Reactionary Circles"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES 18/2/1988—Referring to the recent intensification of reactionary political circles' ideological campaign against socialist countries, as well as to attempts on the part of "political right-wing ideologists" at organizing a new "ideological counteroffensive" intended to blur the current contradictions of the capitalist society and disorient those who seek a new way of societal development, an article in the February 18 issue of newspaper SCINTEIA shows inter alia:

The aggressive character of like campaigns only proves that the ever stronger influence of the revolutionary outlook is acknowledged, that the ideas of socialism, of independence and progress assert themselves ever more powerfully in the contemporary world, despite retrograde circles' attempts at braking the course of history.

The crisis of the capitalist system, as well as the ideological and political recrudescence of anticommunist trends foment a social state of tension. Against this background, anticommunismn has entailed painful historical effects whose memory should allow the voice of reason to prevail definitively. Because the strategy of hatred, of intimidation and of continuous ideological and practical and political threat poses, in fact, a serious danger to human beings. Modern civilization is one and it is indivisible. To be against communism today means to be against civilization, since communism today is one of the roots of civilization.

Today, socialism is a fact of civilization. It is the first project whereby all people purposefully and responsibly assume the human destiny, a project worked out on scientific bases which can only exist as a quintessence of culture and civilization as a whole. The system it pursues terminates several millennia of social development set on the people's division into hostile classes and communities, on man's war against man. And the historic attempt at building a new constellation of civilization can be stopped by no force for the very simple reason that it has definitively penetrated into the people's consciousness.

A number of ideologists and even politicians in the West try to make of anticommunism a fundamental problem of mankind. Like position, which is sometimes endorsed by a state policy, is only an attempt at dissimulating the truly fundamental problems of the contemporary civilization, a diversion that artificially complicates the understanding of the realities in today's world. Today, with the help of up-to-date mass media, the assets and accomplishments of socialism are falsified and denigrated, all while the contradictions caused by the world economic crisis are exploited to the full.

Imperialist circles capitalize the economic conditions in today's world—where interest rates on foreign debts are increased artificially, currency risk turns into an advantage for western investers, the prices of the products that are strictly necessary for the economies with a lower technological standard go up unjustifiably and export terms get worse and worse—for their own benefit. Furthermore, they often make loan-granting conditional upon the adoption of non-socialist development strategies and overtly practise brutal interference in the political options of other peoples, all while expressing their concern over the growing influence of socialist ideas.

Concomitantly, the economic achievements of the socialist countries are distorted and denigrated, disputed and minimized by means of most harmful propagandistic practices, by flagrantly distorting realities. And realities are distorted not only on an external plane. Inside the developed capitalist countries, the same ideologists maintain that the cause behind the outburst of crisis tendencies lies in the options that allowed the role the state plays in the economy to grow to the detriment of private initiative.

U.S. Writer's Book on Transylvania Published

AU171536 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
1505 GMT 17 Feb 88

["Studies by An American Historian Printed in Romania"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES 17/2/1988—The Dacia publishers of Cluj-Napoca has recently put out Sever Trifu's and Codruta Trifu's Romanian translation of part of American Historian Keith Hitchins' "Studies on Romanian National Consciousness" (Nagard 1983), with a foreword by Pompiliu Teodor. The selection for the Romanian version titled "Constiinta Nationala si Actiune Politica la Romanii din Transilvania 1700-1868" (National Consciousness and Political Action: The Romanian of Transylvania, 1700-1868) was made by the author himself. Other studies by the same author on the same problems will be published in future volumes so as to give a complete image of the national movement in Transylvania in the second half of the 19th century.

As shown in the foreword, Keith Hitchins has managed to pinpoint the aspirations of the Romanian nation along one century of its history, owing to his creative, critical assimilation of a vast bibliography.

The selected studies disclose historical processes, facts and people that brought out in bold relief the problems of the modern Romanian nation, seen in connection with the great European trends and ideas and Transylvania's constitutional evolutions, the author deals in separate chapters with the affirmation of the Romanian nation's consciousness in Transylvania in the 18th century, the Romanian enlightenment and one of its personality, Samuil Clain, the Romanian intellectuals of Transylvania, the revolutionary Avram Iancu and the 1848 revolution, Metropolitan Andrei Saguna and the Romanian and Serbian churches in the decade of absolutism, etc.

Keith Hitchins also signed other works on the Romanian history, the monographs "The Romanian National Movement in Transylvania: 1780-1848" and "Orthodoxy and Nationality: Andrei Saguna and the Romanians of Transylvania, 1846-1873," milestones of a vast survey on the history of the idea of nation in central Europe, as well as "The Idea of Nation: The Romanians of Transylvania, 1681-1849" put out in Bucharest in 1985, by the Editura Stiintifica si Enciclopedica.

Comparison of Elections at UCSAR Conference

Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian on 14 February on page 5 carries a 950-word report on the "Conclusion of the Proceedings of the 15th Conference of the Union of Communists Students' Associations of Romania" held in Bucharest 12-13 February. The SCINTEIA report has been compared with the Bucharest AGERPRES English version subtitled "Officials Elected," under the headline "Students' Associations Conference Opens, published in the 17 February East Europe DAILY REPORT, pages 43-44, revealing the following variations:

Page 44, column one, penultimate paragraph of article to last paragraph, reads in SCINTEIA: ...association of Romania. [new paragraph]

Comrades Marius Vasiliu, Cristina-Cerasela Dascalescu, Cristina Drimba, and Claudia-Calina Dragos-Roman were elected vice chairmen, and Comrades Sorin-Eugen Zaharia, Mariana Diaconescu, Corneliu-Alexandru Sandor, and Mircea Cranta were elected secretaries of the council [of the Union of Communist Students' Associations of Romania]. [new paragraph]

The conference adopted... (inserting paragraph per SCINTEIA version)

Agriculture Council Plenary Meeting Opens

AU171926 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
1909 GMT 17 Feb

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES 17/2/1988—The proceedings of an enlarged plenary meeting of the National Council of Agriculture, the Food Industry, Silviculture and Water Management opened in Bucharest on Wednesday, February 17. The plenum analyses highly important questions related to the way in which the activity to fulfil 1987 tasks was carried through, as well as the measures needed to attain 1988 plan indicators so that this year may prove decisive for the implementation of the resolutions of the Thirteenth Congress of the RCP in the field of agriculture.

The proceedings of the plenary meeting continue.

Agenda for Meeting

AU171955 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1930 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Agenda for the Plenary Meeting of the National Council of Agriculture, the Food Industry, Silviculture and Water Management, which opened in Bucharest on 17 February]

[Excerpt] Bucharest AGERPRES 17/2/1988—[Passage omitted] The agenda includes the report on the plan of the development of agriculture, food industry, silviculture and water management for 1988, the budgets of income and expenditure and the measures necessary for the exemplary fulfilment of the plan targets and of the provisions of special programmes for the first term and the entire year; the report on the activity carried on by collective management bodies in state and cooperative agricultural units, joint agroindustrial councils, enterprises and units of food industry, silviculture and water management, county bodies, central departments and ministries belonging to the national council; the measures for growing their role in ensuring self-management and economic-financial self-administration.

These documents were presented by Cornel Pacoste, alternate member of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP, deputy prime minister, chairman of the National Council, and by Vasile Barbulescu, secretary of the CC of the RCP.

The participants also debate the programme of measures on the organization and course of spring agricultural campaign, as well as a report on the implementation of the special programmes in agriculture, food industry, silviculture and water management in 1987 and the measures to be taken for the complete fulfilment of their provisions in 1988.

The proceedings of the plenary meeting continue.

Documents Debated

AU181840 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1740 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES 18/02/1988—Thursday, February 18 the proceedings of the enlarged plenary meeting of the National Council of Agriculture, Food Industry, Silviculture and Water Management continued in Bucharest.

The documents on the agenda of the plenary meeting were debated by groups of counties in the morning.

In the afternoon the proceedings were held in the six councils by fields of activity.

The meetings of the management board of the state agricultural department, of the management board of the general economic directorate for the mechanization of agriculture and of the central commission of farm producers were also held.

In this framework, the participants debated concrete problems related to the organization and course of the spring agricultural campaign in best conditions, as well as of all agricultural works of this year, to the integral utilization of the existing technical-material basis, the strict observance of the set technologies, to the measures to be taken for the exemplary fulfilment of the plan for 1988, of the special programmes for the further development and modernization of agriculture, food industry, silviculture and in the field of water management, for the carrying into effect of the targets of the new agrarian revolution.

At the same time, analysis was made of the measures necessary for rising the efficiency of these important sectors of national economy, and the profitability of all activities, for substantially cutting consumptions of raw materials, materials and energy, for achieving incomes bigger than production expenses, for improving the way of applying the new economic-financial mechanism and for perfecting self-management, self-administration and self-financing in all units.

The proceedings of the plenary meeting continue.

Addressed by Ceausescu

AU191146 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 0955 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES, 19/2/1988—Friday morning, the works of the enlarged plenary meeting of the National Council of Agriculture, Food Industry, Forestry and Water Management resumed in Bucharest.

During the plenary meeting President Nicolae Ceausescu took the floor.

Cooperative Farms Union Holds Plenary Meeting

AU181937 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1911 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES 18/02/1988—Thursday, February 18 the plenary meeting of the Council of the National Union of Producer Cooperative Farms was held which analyzed the results obtained in 1987, the way in which the national union, the county unions and the cooperative units act for the growth of cereal and animal productions at the level of the new agrarian revolution, of the important tasks of cooperative agriculture set by the documents of the Thirteenth RCP Congress and the national RCP conference.

Emphasizing the need for fulfilment and overfulfilment of the production plan for 1988 at all indicators, the plenary meeting debated the tasks of the collective management bodies in cooperative agriculture for improving the work and production organization, for ensuring order and discipline in each sector of activity, for well administrating all material and financial means, for continuously strengthening public property—the basis for the development of each cooperative farm and association, for the peasantry's progress and welfare.

Vasile Barbulescu, secretary of the CC of the RCP, participated and took the floor in the proceedings of the plenary meeting.

The participants in the plenary meeting sent a telegram to RCP General Secretary and Romania's President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Loncar Receives Shevardnadze Message

LD190016 Belgarde TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1717 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 18 February (TANJUG)—Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar has received a message from USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. This is a reply to a letter which the federal secretary sent at the end of last year on behalf of the Mediterranean members of the Nonaligned Movement. The message concerns the issues of interdependence, security, and disarmament between the USSR and the United States on destroying their intermediate- and shorter-range missiles.

Loncar Interviewed on Balkan Meeting

LD182040 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1535 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Feb (TANJUG)—The very fact that the meeting of the Balkan countries' foreign ministers is taking place—at which for the first time all the Balkan countries are represented—is an incentive and also confirmation of our readiness to jointly open a fresh page in the development of regional cooperation in the Balkans. This was stated in his interview to the Belgrade weekly NIN by Budimir Loncar, federal secretary of foriegn affairs. NIN is publishing its interview with the Yugoslav foreign minister in its issue tomorrow.

Budimir Loncar said that he was encouraged by the fact that in their statements and intensive consultations all the participants point out their own and the common resolve to ensure that the meeting is successful through a constructive approach and by seeking an orientation of "joint needs and identical interests" in the development of their multilateral cooperation. We expect—Loncar added, that the meeting will further promote the improved political climate in the Balkans which had in fact made the meeting possible. We also expect concrete and realistic agreements on specific aspects of cooperation in all the areas where this is possible today. In his evaluation, conditions would thereby be created for "the expansion of the scope for fresh points of contact." Budimir Loncar made the evaluation that a joint desire to ensure the continuity of the process is discernible, so much so that" an agreement on periodic meetings of the foreign affairs ministers, as well as other meetings at various levels, would represent a very important and encouraging result." Budimir Loncar said that a positive outcome of the meeting will ensure a more visible role to be played by all Balkan countries in solving European and global problems." We can state that the interest in promoting cooperation in the Balkans—in the interest of the whole of Europe—is increasingly present throughout the continent. This also explains the very positive reaction and also the public support given to our joint undertaking," said Budimir Loncar.

Asked what hampers better and more comprehensive cooperation between the Balkan countries today, the Yugoslav foreign minister recalled the vestiges of the past, differing interests, unresolved problems and conflicts, divisions, differences in the development systems and geopolitical positions—in short everything, as he put it, which has to be overcome and is gradually overcome whenever and wherever one comes to realize that joint interests exist and that we can resolve the vital development questions only through multilateral cooperation. "In this way we shall best create also the increasingly favorable conditions to solve bilateral problems," said Loncar.

"Yugoslavia, an extra-bloc, nonaligned, European and Balkan country, pursues the same policy in the Balkans, toward all its neighbors in Europe, in the Mediterranean and in the world," said the federal secretary of foreign affairs. "This is the policy for active peaceful coexistence and the policy of good neighborliness is an essential part of it. Yugoslavia is trying to play the most constructive role possible in international relations along these lines."

Budimir Loncar expressed the hope that the initiative to hold the meeting and the fact that it is to be held in Belgrade will be seen as an expression of this Yugoslav policy and role. "In this context I must repeat that without an equal interest and contribution by everyone in the Balkans no one on their own could do a great deal. Together and acting in concert we can attain a great deal more. In this sense the Belgrade meeting is both a challenge and a chance, it is also a responsibility which we all bear toward ourselves and others," said Budimir Loncar in his interview with the weekly NIN.

Dissident Views Bloc Human Rights Record

PM191010 Madrid ABC in Spanish 13 Feb 88 p 30

[Interview with Yugoslav dissident Milovan Djilas by Miguel Castellvi in Venice "in early February"]

[Excerpt] [introductory passage omitted] [Castellvi] You have had personal experience of the human rights problem in the Eastern Bloc. What is the situation in those countries now?

[Djilas] Human rights are violated on a much larger scale in Eastern Europe than in the rest of the continent. In Albania and Romania, the situation could be described in terms of a complete absence of such rights. This impedes the building of European cooperation, not to mention the division of Europe, which is still a constant threat, a danger.

[Castellvi] Nevertheless the situation has evolved....

[Djilas] Yes, indeed. Except in the two countries I mentioned, human rights in the Eastern Bloc countries have undoubtedly evolved considerably. Although what I call "the ideological barriers" still survive, the new atmosphere and relations between the peoples are able to surmount them. This evolution has taken place thanks to a certain weakness on the part of the parties that monopolize power and the bureaucrats that have grown up with them. However, it has never been the result of a deliberate stance on the governments' part.

[Castellvi] What is the main obstacle to the implementation of human rights in these countries?

[Djilas] The monopoly on power, that is, the identification of the state with the party. The basic problem lies in the party's control not only of politics but also of the economy, the media, the police, and the army. These countries' political and social structures prevent a consistent human rights policy. Even if there were a desire to implement them it would be impossible. Religious freedom cannot be guaranteed if power is in the hands of an atheistic state. Nor can freedom of expression be guaranteed if the media are in the hands of the party and state.

[Castellvi] Nevertheless these countries do include human rights in their legislation.

[Djilas] Yes, but that which is granted by one law is qualified by others and in practice denied. This produces a situation of inconsistency and evasion of legality caused not by fear of a possible violent coup d'etat—violence, apart from that practiced by the state, hardly exists in the Eastern Bloc—but by the "new class" position of monopoly and unquenchable thirst for privileges. The chief blame for this situation lies with the Soviet Union because of its dominant role in eastern Europe and in each eastern bloc country.

[Castellvi] Which human right do you consider most important?

[Djilas] Although I do not combat atheism and atheists, I believe religious freedoms are the most essential. They are the most fundamental. Philosophers, intellectuals, and politicians are concerned with other things, but ordinary people are concerned with being able to practice their own religion.

[Castellvi] What is the Church's position in Yugoslavia?

[Djilas] A genuine revolution is taking place in this field. There is a religious renaissance. This does not mean that religion and the Church are free, though an evolution is taking place. The situation varies depending on the place and the religion concerned. In Slovenia, for instance, the situation is good, and Croatia it is better than in Serbia because the Church is stronger there. However, there is a certain evolution in Serbia too.

[Castellvi] What memories do you have of your time in prison? Are they bitter memories?

[Djilas] No, no. I chose my destiny. I am not embittered. I could have avoided it, but it would have been very difficult. I would have had to change my way of thinking and to capitulate to Tito.

[Castellvi] What is your opinion of Tito?

[Djilas] I believe he was a very successful politician. He will have a place in history, especially for his struggle against fascism.

[Castellvi] What about the present situation in the USSR?

[Djilas] Gorbachev holds a center stance in Soviet politics but cannot maintain it very long. Sooner or later, he will have to decide and choose whether to adopt a policy aimed at a more or less democratic form of government respectful of human rights or to backtrack. I believe a return to a Stalinist system is impossible, however. This itself is a major change. Gorbachev is an innovator in economic matters but in fact maintains a moderate and sometimes conservative stance on basic political issues. A major debate has started on this topic in the USSR. There are groups that have secured the right to exist and express themselves and not all oppositionists are now arrested automatically. However, in the field of basic freedoms and the institutionalization of political rights, things are still confined merely to words.

Rozic Pays Official Visit to New Zealand

LD181519 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Dr Marjan Rozic, president of the SFRY Assembly, started his official visit to New Zealand today. Talks with his hosts will focus primarily on economic cooperation. Here is a report by TANJUG correspondent Martin Tranevsi:

Following his 4-day visit to Australia, Dr Marjan Rozic, president of the SFRY Assembly, arrived in New Zealand today on an official visit at the invitation of New Zealand's parliament. President Rozic held a meeting with New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange. A lengthy and cordial talk took place. In a very friendly atmosphere, David Lange spoke with respect about Yugoslav emigrants in New Zealand, whom he described as a very reputable group of people who continue to cherish their culture and customs and who are a very strong link between New Zealand and Yugoslavia.

Having extended greetings from FEC President Branko Mikulic, Dr Marian Rozic called for efforts to advance economic cooperation between the two countries, drawing attention to the great potential offered by Yugoslav construction firms and our capacity to export industrial goods to New Zealand. This would not only reduce deficit in the trade between the two countries but improve its structure.

Prime Minister Lange agreed that there exist treat opportunities and need for increasing trade and cooperation between Yugoslavia and New Zealand in all sphere. In this context, he mentioned the possibility of establishing a mixed committee for economic cooperation between the two countries. During his meeting with President Rozic, Prime Minister Lange expressed his strong desire to visit Yugoslavia in the foreseeable future.

Meets Trade Minister

LD191204 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1134 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Sydney, February 19 (TANJUG)—On the second day of his visit to New Zealand, Assembly of Yugoslavia President Marjan Rozic had talks with Minister of Overseas Trade and Marketing Michael Moore and discussed problems of international trade.

It was mutually assessed that the protectionist practice of some developed counties inflicts great damage on trends in world trade. The hope was stated that the forthcoming GATT session will contribute to eliminating import barriers with which some countries and groups protect their economies from foreign competition.

Rozic had separate meetings with New Zealand's House of Representatives Speaker Kerry Burke and the leader of the opposition in parliament Jonathan Hunt, during which the two countries' parliamentary cooperation and international issues were discussed.

Afghan Envoy on Neutrality of Government

LD152330 Belgrade TANJUG in English
2253 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 15 (TANJUG)—Afghanistan's new government should neither be pro-Soviet, nor pro-American, but nor can it be hostile towards the Soviet Union, Charge d'Affaires of the Afghan Embassy in Yugoslavia Abdul Eskandary stated in a Yugoslav TV foreign policy programme.

The stance of the Kabul government is that Afghanistan should be an independent, nonaligned and neutral state in which there will be no military bases of either of the superpowers, the Afghan diplomat stressed.

Asked how many posts in the new national reconciliation government will be offered to opposition parties and groups, Eskandary said that all 28 ministerial posts and those of president and vice-president will be accessible to everybody, but the number of seats particular parties and groups win in the parliamentary elections, set for next May, will be taken into account.

This can be decided exclusively through peaceful negotiations, Eskandary stressed.

It is possible that extremist Mujahedin groups will use arms to try to prevent a positive outcome of the Geneva negotiations, but if the United States and Pakistan stopped supporting and arming them, they would soon be overcome, he said.

Since the Kabul government declared the national reconciliation policy, about 150,000 Afghan refugee families returned home from Pakistan and Iran, Eskandary said on Yugoslav television.

Presidency Discusses Attacks on People's Army

LD182001 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service
in Serbo-Croatian 1609 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Feb (TANJUG)—The SFRY Presidency condemns attacks on the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA] and on the defense capability of the country that have appeared in certain sections of the information media. At the same time, it calls for constructive critical debates that will advance the development of all parts of society, including the system of all-people's defense and the JNA. On this subject, today's report on a session of the SFRY Presidency states:

At a session of the SFRY Presidency held in Belgrade yesterday and presided over by Lazar Mojsov, information about attacks on the JNA from certain sections of the public information media was considered, among other things.

In particular, some public newspapers lately have published articles that, through insinuations and fabricated qualifications, have made crude attacks on the JNA. In some articles, the role and place of the JNA in the political system of socialist self-management is brought into question, as well as its preparedness to maintain and protect the independence, territorial integrity, and constitutional order of the SFRY. Also brought into question are the general Yugoslav character of our army, the principles on which it is organized, and the way it is financed. In particular, attempts are made, using methods from the arsenal of a special kind of war, to destroy the high standing in society of the JNA and its officer cadre.

Particularly characteristic is the attack on the most responsible officers in the JNA, especially in connection with the recent visit by the federal secretary for national defense to the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia which, like all such visits, was made with in the framework of planned, friendly cooperation between the SFRY and nonaligned countries, including Ethiopia.

The SFRY Presidency assesses that the attacks on the JNA, the armed forces as a whole, and the defense capability of the country represent an integral part of increased attacks on the achievements of our revolution, on the sociopolitical system established by the SFRY Constitution, and on the Federation. They are part of attempts to destabilize the situation in the country and undermine the international standing and position of Yugoslavia. For these reasons, such writing directly contradicts the Constitution and the laws of the SFRY.

Condemning such actions, the SFRY Presidency also calls for constructive critical debate, with the aim of advancing and developing all parts of our society, including the system of all-people's defense and the JNA. The SFRY Presidency warns of the danger of underestimating the destructive aims of the slanderous campaign against the JNA in certain environments. It points out the immediate need for all state organs and social factors, above all in those environments in which these attacks are taking place, and in the country as a whole, to undertake measures to prevent them, within the framework of their constitutionally established rights and duties.

Belgrade SAWP Views Attacks

LD182126 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1805 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 18 Feb (TANJUG)—At the start of today's session of the city conference of the Belgrade SAWP, the initiative of Milojica Pantelier, a delegate from the assembly of the capital city, was accepted to the effect that an addition be made to the agenda: The consideration of the stances of the city conference in connection with the latest attacks in some Slovene newspapers on the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA] and on the Yugoslav concept of all-people's defense. At the proposal of a specially formed working group, which was accepted, it was decided that the SAWP city conference should discuss this theme at its next session, and that before then the Presidium should prepare proposed stances and conclusions on the matter.

Speaking about the attacks on the JNA, Pantelic stressed that they are a consequence of the joint activity of an internal enemy, hostile political emigres abroad, and certain foreign circles that are not well-disposed toward the SFRY. Moreover, he continued, the escalation of such attacks has risen, even after a reaction to them by the LCY Central Committee. A key cause for this type of phenomenon, in Pantelic's opinion, lies in the fact that certain leading figures in our society—and particularly in the SR of Slovenia—have a tolerant, pseudodemocratic, and opportunistic approach to this. [passage omitted]

Rules Reform Sought in Assembly's Chamber

LD172213 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1437 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 17 Feb (TANJUG)—Elimination of "weakpoints" in the work of the SFRY Assembly's Chamber of the Republics and Provinces is urgently needed, otherwise the number of arguments blaming its present decision making process for the crisis in the country will justly increase.

The need for improvement in the chamber's work is borne out by the increasing number of cases where temporary measures had to be introduced, and especially by the difficulties in coordinating this year's financial planning documents.

Precisely for this reason Drasko Popovic, president of the chamber; chairmen of the working bodies; and heads of the republican and provincial delegations met again today to exchange experiences and analyze the chamber's work. Their conclusions will be used during the work to determine the need for constitutional changes and changes to the chamber's Rules of Procedure.

In addition to the familiar difficulties in the chamber's work—poor document quality, failure to meet deadlines, lack of emergency procedures—all of which hinder good decision making and the lack of adequate communication with the Federal Executive Council [FEC], attention was drawn to a number of other vitally important issues.

Some of these were noted by Zoran Miksovic, general secretary of the FEC, who opened the debate and said that the FEC continues to be the sole proposer of documents to the SFRY Assembly. Under the Constitution, the FEC is empowered to propose only the country's economic policy, social plan, and the budget's volume. However, in practice the FEC has been proposing all kinds of regulations and laws. According to Miskovic, this happens when another party, for instance a republic, is interested in seeing a regulation adopted.

The chamber's agenda often includes numerous tasks, which are known in advance to be impossible to carry out, for which the FEC is then blamed. Under this year's resolution, the FEC has been given 64 tasks to carry out. These tasks are the result of various compromises. Some significant issues on which agreement cannot be reached are often included in the chamber's conclusions, binding for the FEC but not for the republics or provinces. It is, therefore, necessary to formulate the chamber's agenda in a different way and use the rules of procedure to settle a problem when the adoption of one document is made conditional on the adoption of another which, according to Miskovic, is unconstitutional. [passage omitted]

Culafic Speaks on Public Order, Dissent

LD190037 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1623 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Feb (TANJUG)—The country's internal affairs organs successfully carried out their tasks last year and did so in conditions of an economic and social crisis. This was stressed today by Dobroslav Culafic, federal secretary of internal affairs, when together with Svetomir Lalovic, the Serbian republican secretary of internal affairs, he visited the Belgrade City Secretariat of Internal Affairs.

Culafic stressed that despite all internal contradictions, difficulties, and disruptions the internal affairs organs are managing to ensure a peaceful life for our citizens, safety for their property, and preservation of the reputation and status of Yugoslavia as a safe country. This is testified to, among other things, also by the preceding tourist season as well as by many international meetings held in Yugoslavia, which took place without any incidents whatever. The security situation on the borders is essentially good as well, stressed the federal secretary for internal affairs.

Culafic stressed that all the plans by anti-Yugoslav forces, especially by enemy emigres, to carry out sabotage and terrorist actions on SFRY territory had been frustrated, while the internal affairs organs had efficiently resisted the attempts by internal enemies to threaten the constitutional system in our country. This is not the result of the work by internal affairs organs exclusively, but by the efforts and actions by all forces.

Culafic drew attention to a deep-seated economic and political crisis, a reduced standard of living, a high level of unemployment, growing disintegration processes, massive violaiton of laws, corruption, bribery, privileges and the like, and also to manifestations that essentially influence the political mood of our citizens and an increase in social tension in our society.

As a specific form of social tension, Culafic mentioned strikes that represent a characteristic form of showing dissatisfaction not only among the workers on a factory shop floor, but my employees in other social activities. When that happens, it is not only higher personal income that is asked for, but some social demands are made as well.

This is why getting out of the current economic and social crisis is a central question of our socialism and socialist self-management, and also of Yugoslavia's security and stability, stressed the federal secretary of internal affairs. He went on to say that recently the internal affairs organs were coming up against some security problems that were novel in terms of their form and content, such as violence in stadiums and at cultural and entertainment functions, and many attacks on social property.

To fight successfully against such manifestations, we must be trained quickly and expeditiously and for this experts, a high level of professionalism, and conscientious work are required.

The federal secretary stressed that some positive processes had been opened in the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo and satisfactory results accomplished. However, the situation in the province is still complex and has an exceptional influence on the stability and unity of the country. The SFRY Presidency decided a few months ago to send a detachment of the Federal Secretariat of Internal Affairs into that province that was proved to have been a correct reaction taken at the right time. The actions that have been taken are producing their initial results, stressed Culafic.

He drew attention to the need for a resolute fight to be waged in the work of the organs of internal affairs, mentioning that last year disciplinary measures had been taken against 2000 internal affairs workers in the country. In some instances, the action did not stop there and criminal offence and misdemeanor proceedings were instituted. The demands that our workers should operate legally are justified, but we have to ensure legal and any other type of support for them, stressed Culafic. Over 1100 attacks on official personnel, mainly militiamen, were recorded last year. We must not forget the need to improve the material position of the internal affairs workers on which intensive work is going on.

Culafic and Lalovic, together with Nikola Curcic, the Belgrade city secretary for internal affairs, then visited the city assembly. In conversation with Aleksandar Bakocevic, president of the Belgrade Assembly, the federal secretary stressed the exceptional importance of there being a satisfactory security situation in the capital. The city internal affairs organs are working succesfully and are carrying out all their tasks, it was said during the conversation.

The fact was especially noted that over 8000 foreigners live in the capital and that every year over 420,000 foreigners spend over 24 hours in it. We are an open country, but foreign citizens must behave in keeping with our laws. Some of them do not do that, so last year about 900 foreigners (over 100 of them in Belgrade) had their leave to stay in Yugoslavia canceled. We cannot allow anyone to abuse our hospitality, stressed Dobroslav Culafic.

Kosovo Presidency, LC Discuss Nationalism

LD122243 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1636 GMT 12 Feb 88

[Text] Pristina, 12 Feb (TANJUG)—Following the ninth session of the LCY Central Committee on Kosovo, a process was begun in this province of essential changes in many fields of social life, as well as in the work of the organs and institutions of the system. The situation in Kosovo, however, continues to be burdened by activity from the position of Albanian nationalism and separatism, as well as the activity of Serbian and Montenegrin nationalists. This was assessed at today's joint session of the Presidacy of the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo and the Presideium of the Kosovo LC Provincial Committee in which Sinan Hasani, member of the SFRY Presidency, and Milanko Renovica and Kolj Siroka, members of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, also participated.

The communique from the session stresses that certain positive results have been achieved over several months through intensive activity by the Kosovo LC and other subjective forces, and that to a significant degree concrete solutions are being found to the social and essential problems of citizens. Responsibility has been sharpened up, the process of ideopolitical differentiation is being intensified, and greater cooperation and unity in the (?activity) of the Serbian LC and the Kosovo LC and its leaderships, as well as of the working class, is being achieved.

The agreement achieved on proposals to set about changing the Constitution of the SR of Serbia is having a positive influence on the political situation in this province. The communique says that significant efforts are being invested to prevent the emigration of Serbs and Montenegrins, and especially to remove the causes of their emigration, something toward which the adopted Yugoslav program on Kosovo is designed to contribute.

The Presidium and the Presidency assessed that in some environments there continues to be opportunism, sluggishness, and an irresponsible attitude toward work. The situation in Kosovo continues to be burdened by activity from the position of Albanian nationalism, which is expressed, above all, in illegal forms and in league with Albanian hostile propaganda abroad.

Although at no point does the Kosovo LC posit some sort of relationship of artificial symmetry and balance between Albanian and other nationalisms, the communique stresses, it must be stated clearly that Serbian and Montenegrin nationalism in Kosovo are being expressed through concrete forms of activity. Individuals and certain circles attempt to use every motive and opportunity to provoke fresh tensions and the negation of everything being undertaken by socialist forces in Kosovo to settle the situation. They stimulate divisions and confrontation on a national basis, various chauvinist and nationalist slogans are heard, the problem of emigration is manipulated, and doubt is spread about the possibility of living together in Kosovo. By the way they react to specific principled LC assessments, measures, and actions, individuals and certain circles in essence are trying to prove that by their very national affiliation as Serbs and Montenegrins, they are beyond the influence of political structures and organs of the system in the province. Such tendencies are harmful and if they are tolerated, they will have a negative impact on LC action in the struggle against Albanian nationalism.

It was assessed that principled and comradely support of a united LCY and a Serbian LC, which starts from the clear stances and orientations of the LCY on Kosovo, continues to be vital to communists and other progressive forces in Kosovo.

Renovica Speaks on Kosovo Emigration

LD131509 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1354 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Pec, 13 February (TANJUG)—Milanko Renovica, member of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, said during the session of the Presidium of the Municipal Committee of the LC in Pec today that the LC must win the battle for the consistent and decisive implementation of the conclusions of the ninth session of the LCY Central Committee on Kosovo. All opposition and hesitation must be broken, he said, and any possible differences in viewing the Kosovo situation overcome. At this point of time, Renovica stressed, it is very important to ensure continuity in the implementation of the conclusions of the party plenums on Kosovo; they must not experience the fate of some other conclusions that are soon forgotten. We are aware that these conclusions are being carried out in a fairly difficult situation in the country, particularly in respect of the economy. However, the LC has no alternative but to win the struggle for their implementation. In so doing Renovica stressed, the LC will not accept the would-be advisers who are offering their own recipes for the solution of the problems in Kosovo.

Renovica stressed the need for subjective forces in Kosovo to be involved more on stopping the emigration of Serbs and Montenegrins and on ensuring their return, and also on improving intranational relations, which have become cool. He also stressed the importance of the Yugoslav program on Kosovo and expressed his conviction that this document, as well as the imminent constitutional reforms, will provide an incentive for greater mobility of the subjective forces in Kosovo and for the stabilization of the political situation in that province.

During the session of the presidium of the municipal conference of the LC of Pec the political situation was assessed as unstable, in which context special attention was drawn to the continued activity of Albanian nationalists and separatists, and also to the problem of the emigration of Serbs, Montenegrins, and Muslims from this municipality.

Kolj Siroka, member of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, and Azim Vlasi, president of the Presidium of the Provincial Committee of the LC of Kosovo, were in Pec with Renovica. Today they visited one of the best Pec collectives, the Ramiz Sadiku car parts factory.

Hasani, Seljani Discuss Province's Problems

LD132114 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1546 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Lipljan, 13 feb (TANJUG)—Sinan Hasani, member of the SFRY Presidency, and Bajram Seljani, president of the Presidency of the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo, today visited the municipality of Lipljan. On this occasion, a meeting was held in the Municipal LC Committee with sociopolitical workers at which there was discussion of current political and economic trends.

Taking part in the discussion, Bajram Seljani, president of the Kosovo Presidency, stressed that despite all the actions taken to implement the conclusions of the ninth session of the LCY Central Committee on Kosovo, there is much resistance by nationalists of all shades who do not want the situation in the province to improve.

Speaking about economic developments, Seljani said it is unacceptable that the municipality of Lipljan has a developed agriculture while it does not have a single processing program in this field. And Lipljan needs precisely this.

Sinan Hasani, member of the SFRY Presidency, said there is still low production in our country and this has an impact on the overall crisis in the country and can in no way be overcome by redistributing poverty but only by increasing production. We have mapped out well the long-term program of economic stabilization, but we have realized it badly. Nevertheless, we have come to see our mistakes and in this way the procedure for changing the Constitution has come about. The latest constitutional changes should strengthen our independent road to socialism, expand the room for the development of self-management, and speed up the finding of a way out of the crisis, Hasani said among other things.

Kosovo Polje LC Deplores 'Vulgar Behavior'

AU171152 Pristina RILINDJA in Albanian
12 Feb 88 p 16

[Unattributed report: "Meeting of Kosovo Polje Communists Postponed"]

[Text] The Kosovo Polje LC Regional Conference Presidium, at its meeting the evening before last attended by Prof Dr Ragip Halili, Pristina LC Communal Committee Presidium president, discussed the preparations for the gathering of Communists of the 16th and 17th local communities planned earlier, and decided to hold this gathering at the end of this month.

It was decided that this meeting will discuss the implications and realization of the conclusions of the ninth LCY Central Committee plenum on Kosovo and various other issues and problems. The decision was reached that the two presidiums of the Kosovo Polje 16th and 17th local community action conferences should be responsible for the coordination and organization of this meeting. The preparations for the meeting will also involve relevant activists: members of the presidiums of the action conferences of the communal and provincial LC committees.

It was reported yesterday that, in considering certain aspects of the last meeting of the First SAWP Organization of the 16th Local Community, the presidium most strongly condemned the vulgar and unacceptable behavior of some individuals observed on this occasion, and dissociated itself from such an unprecedented tone of discord.

SAWP Meeting Expresses Serb Grievances

AU151545 Pristina RILINDJA in Albanian
8 Feb 88 p 2

[G. Bajrami report: "A Cure for Nationalism—Exceptionally Difficult"]

[Text] The First SAWP Association of the Kosovo Polje 16th Local Community met the evening before last to discuss various topical issues of the political situation. The meeting was held under complicated circumstances, because several hundred citizens from the Kosovo Polje region, Pristina Commune, and beyond gathered there. Also present at the meeting were Zika Radojlovic and Miroslav Markovic from the Serbian LC Central Committee, and Daut Jasanica, Momcilo Trajkovic, Enver Selimi, Zika Mitrovic, Hilmi Osmani, Paja Jovanovic, Muhamed Krasniqi, and other communal activists.

Ljubo Vujovic, chairman of this organization, stressed among other things in his opening speech that the activity of Albanian nationalism is complicating the political situation, and aims to falsify history and destroy monasteries and graveyards, also attempting rapes and other assaults on human dignity. All these things, he said, encourage the continuing emigration of Serbs and Montenegrins. He said that 414 families with 2,200 members have emigrated from this area since 1968. He went on to mention various leading cadres, who in his opinion must bear responsibility for the situation that has been created in this district, and beyond, in the commune and the province. He said that calling the three so-called leaders of Serbian nationalism from Kosovo Polje to face responsibility had aroused great discontent among local citizens.

Various citizens contributed to the 4-hour discussion. Their speeches were mainly in defense of Bosko Budimirovic, Bogdan Kecman, and Miroslav Solovic. All these rejected the assessments of the Pristina LC Communal Committee on their ideopolitical responsibility, and were not backward in defaming and attacking a very large number of cadres in the commune and the province. For example, Mika Aleksic criticized the Pristina LC Communal Committee assessments as Stalinist methods, while Bogdan Balabani was worried about the Communal Committee's struggle against Serbian nationalism. Slavko Djumic, a familiar figure from all the single-nationality gatherings of Serbs and Montenegrins, repeated his theory that the Albanians as a people had come here and evicted the Serbs from their hearths, as well as his advocacy of rule by a strong hand. Ljubica Dekic was of the opinion that they should all emigrate if Bosko Budimirovic is not reinstated in the ranks of the LC. Svetomir Arsic agreed. Rade Djukic demanded that the children of former provincial officials against whom ideopolitical measures have been taken should also be held responsible.

Although the chairman of the meeting limited speeches to 10 minutes, Budimirovic spoke for 40 minutes and rejected any assessment of his ideopolitical responsibility. On the contrary, he laid responsibility at the door of the communal authorities and informed those present that he had decided to resign from his job and emigrate within the next 10 to 15 days. Kosta Bulatovic said that they are being subjected to terror and genocide and called for mass emigration. Bogdan Kecman called for a meeting of Kosovo Polje Communists to discuss the question of responsibility and the committee's assessments. Milica Bojanic and Blagoje Popovic demanded the same. Drago Samardzic (who is not from Kosovo Polje, but who was pressed to speak by the crowds gathered outside), after defaming a large number of cadres, said that nationalists had expelled Budimirovic from the LC.

Sreten Martinovic said that it was an unprecedented anachronism for a person to be forced to emigrate by his own state. He added that there was no basis for the assessments against the three "leaders," and that all gatherings up until now had been organized legally, but had turned themselves into protest gatherings of their own accord. Halit Kasumi said that he had often been in company with the three "leaders," but had never known them to show signs of nationalist behavior. His speech was applauded and welcomed as the speech of an honest Albanian.

Momcilo Trajkovic demanded that people should not fall into the trap of nationalist forces by defaming people without reason, and called on them not to emigrate. Daut Jashanica also tried to call on those present to abandon any attempt to emigrate, but was interrupted several times both by those present in the hall and those outside.

Zika Radojlovic, member of the Serbian LC Central Committee Presidency, pointed out that the aftermath of the counterrevolutionary events has been serious, because of deep indoctrination. The most serious problem is to heal people of nationalism, and he called upon people to guard themselves against Serbian and Montenegrin nationalism, which aroused a reaction among those present. He also spoke about some results which have been achieved in stabilizing the situation, in pursuing ideopolitical differentiation, and in the constitutional changes, which will lead to Serbia becoming a republic with all the prerogatives of a republic and a state.

At the end of the meeting it was decided to call for a gathering of Kosovo Polje Communists, and to send the conclusions of the meeting to all the authorities from the commune to the federation.

Kosovo Press Protests Belgrade TV Coverage

AU170908 Pristina RILINDJA in Albanian
14 Feb 88 p 7

[Veton Surroi article: "Black and White"]

[Text] This week, for the first time in a long time, names have been mentioned in connection with a media fiasco. This fact is of even greater political importance, since Ragip Halili, president of the Pristina LC Communal Committee, president of the communal committee of the commune most burdened with various ideopolitical developments, spoke about Viktor Papic, the Belgrade Television commentator, and his commentary in the news broadcast on 6 February, at the last meeting of the Kosovo LC Provincial Committee.

What did Papic really do? He gathered film material from the archive showing participants in single-nationality gatherings in the past, and interspersed scenes on film with a commentary on the present ideopolitical situation in Kosovo Polje at a time when activity is being mounted for ideopolitical measures against three LC members who, as the Pristina LC Communal Committee unanimously agreed, have acted from positions of Serbian nationalism. Even setting aside the filmed scenes, showing participants in gatherings shouting slogans, dressed in spring and winter clothes (which by association is to some extent connected with the warning of a "hot political spring" issued by some Kosovo Polje activists), the text remains, and is full of political views indicating a clear line of political activity in this situation.

The essence of Papic's views is this: antagonism has been aroused, which will lead to the polarization of the two opposing sides. On one side stand the bureaucracy (which can hardly wait to compile a meticulous file on Serbian nationalism, in order to equate it with the Albanian variety), Albanian Communists (who by bringing Kecman, Solevic, and Budimirovic to face their responsibility seek to proclaim the single-nationality gatherings themselves as nationalist), and Albanian nationalists (who have lain low recently waiting to see what they can gain from the demand for the three leaders' responsibility). On the other side stand Serbian Communists (apart from two careerists, who voted against the three leaders), who are united with the people, who are defending not only the three leaders but their "expressions of the popular mood of revulsion against the bureaucracy," in other words single-nationality gatherings, which according to Papic are "the right of the people to defend themselves and exert democratic pressure upon the authorities because of their slow progress toward improving the situation."

Distrust [subhead]

All this happened on Saturday evening after the gathering of hundreds of people to defend the three leaders at the First Kosovo Polje SAWP Organization. If we think of one of the roles of the media as propaganda guiding the political atmosphere, the result of this commentary in an environment as laden with emotional outbursts as Kosovo Polje, and among an even larger number of viewers, is to depict a black and white situation in which there is a polarization between "the good" and "the bad." According to this distinction "the good" are the Serbian and Montenegrin people together with the Communists of this nationality, who are united in fighting for freedom. "The bad" are the Albanians (the bureaucracy, Communists, and nationalists all lumped together), who are aiming their weapons against the Serbian people. Such a black and white distinction needs no comment, except to say that it is a direct "contribution" to intensifying the anti-Albanian atmosphere and to deepening lack of confidence in the organized political life of sociopolitical bodies. In this context, the commentator also remarks (in spite of the assessments of LCY bodies at different levels) that the Conclusions of the LCY Central Committee ninth plenum have remained in the desk drawer. This last conceals personal nationalism.

Such exclusively national rhetoric, which is not new, and did not begin with Papic, but is a constituent element of the so-called positive pressure on organized socialist forces in Kosovo to improve the situation, besides sowing lack of confidence, also hints at directions for political activity.

Mass Movements [subhead]

If in such a situation as Papic depicts, in which problems cannot be solved as long as direct bureaucratic and national pressure upon the people exists, and in which noninstitutional movements are "democratic ways to exert pressure," then single-nationality gatherings offer a logical solution to this "hot spring" too. Of course the commentator has prepared the ground for this, and so have the views of some activists who pay no attention to the many assessments that have been issued in connection with these gatherings and the nationalist slogans shouted at them.

If silence is consciously being maintained over the portion of the LCY Central Committee assessments that states that such gatherings, although prompted by genuine grievances, still, as a form of national division, lead to the further exacerbation of the Kosovo situation, and if silence is similarly maintained over the portion of the provincial assessments that points out the context and content of the nationalist slogans shouted at these meetings, then there is no need not to justify gatherings as a form of political activity before the eyes of a section of the masses. All the less so when the view is constantly advanced that these are expressions of popular views, while it is not said that nationalists also meddled with this expression of popular views, channeling the critical energy of the people into demands for weapons, demands for the eviction of the Albanians beyond Prokletije and the militarization of Kosovo (the so-called "Polish solution"), and into demands for military rule, in which context the slogan "We want freedom" was also heard.

If this matter is judged according to the experience of the last 2 or 3 years, during which every gathering has been followed by a wave of propaganda involving expressions of national-populist rhetoric ("A people without rights seeks freedom," "Columns of persecuted people"), thus justifying single-nationality gatherings, then it is not hard to imagine that the predicted "hot spring" will fill the mold already shaped for it. The present difference is that in contrast to earlier occasions, rejection of this syndrome of interlinked political activity (media, then gatherings) has begun much more articulately and publicly, at meetings of the Kosovo LC Provincial Committee, and with the initiative to involve the Kosovo LC Provincial Committee in stabilizing the situation in Kosovo Polje.

Court Sentences Two for 'Hostile Propaganda'

AU171151 Pristina RILINDJA in Albanian
12 Feb 88 p 9

[H.M. report: "Two Sentenced for Hostile Propaganda"]

[Text] Pec, 11 Feb—The trial at Pec District Court of seven persons accused of hostile propaganda under Article 133, Paragraph 1 of the SFRY Penal Code, has ended. The bench headed by Uke Mucaj declared a verdict of guilty and sentenced Smajl Halitaj (33) from the village of Siga to 18 months imprisonment, and Syle Krasniqi (30) from the village of Trstenik to 1 year's imprisonment. During the court proceedings, and especially during the main examination, it was said that the accused Halitaj had acted from positions of Albanian nationalism and separatism between 1981 and 1984, while he was working in Switzerland. He took part in hostile demonstrations in Berne and Geneva, and obtained and read hostile propaganda material, while Krasniqi, while working in a hotel patronized by persons with hostile attitudes, contacted several individuals with anti-Yugoslav views.

Isa Gervalla (29), Nexhat Syla (22), Xhavit Zeqiraj (22), Qamil Lushaj (23), and Bajram Shala (24), were acquitted because of lack of evidence.

Slovene Writers on Constitutional Changes

AU141904 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian
2 Feb 88 p 4

[V. Simonovic report: "A Feeling for Intolerancy"]

[Text] Ljubljana, 1 Feb—On 25 January, the Managing Committee of the Slovene Writers Association endorsed the statement on the Draft Amendments to the SFRY Constitution which was proposed by its Commission for Constitutional Changes (the Draft Amendments were endorsed by the SFRY Assembly Federal Chamber on 29 December 1987). The Central Committee Presidium of the LC of Slovenia reacted today to this statement which the Ljubljana dailies DELO and DNEVNIK carried in full on Saturday. Here is, slightly abridged, what Slovene writers concluded about the Draft Amendments and what the Central Committee Presidium has said in its reply.

The public debate on the constitutional amendments has started in an undemocratic way, the Slovene Writers Managing Committee concludes. The committee stresses that it is aware of the potentousness of the times—times in which the overall political, economic, and moral crisis provokes and, according to some people, even justifies the efforts of those forces in Yugoslavia which would like to have a unitarist and a centralist state. Taking part in public debates and discussion forums on several occasions, the Slovene Writers Association has analyzed both the working version of the Draft Amendments and the proposal of the SFRY Presidency made at the time, and concluded that the proposed changes fail to ensure either the announced democratization of political and social life or enough actual respect for economic laws. This is why the Assembly of the SR of Slovenia was then asked to request the SFRY Assembly to withdraw the proposed Draft Amendments to the SFRY Constitution.

Readiness To Compromise [subhead]

According to the writers, the present Draft Amendments do not differ essentially from the working version, since the parts assessed by the Slovene SAWP Delegates Conference as controversial or unacceptable have not been changed. The new alternative provisions offered are not good enough, and as for those which are, there is no certainty that they will be accepted. Of all the articles in the Draft Amendments which were assessed as unacceptable "only Point 8 has been really dropped; according to it the Federation would regulate through federal laws the foundations of the free exchange of labor." However, one does not drop the provisions on "the validity of federal laws in cases when republican and federal laws contradict the Constitutional Court's decision, the provision granting power to the federation in the judiciary field, the proposal according the Yugoslav People's Army special status regardless of the economic situation in society, and not even the proposal that the federation through federal organs should regulate the foundations for the association of citizens in social organizations and societies," the Managing Committee of the Slovene Writers Association says in its letter.

The existing Draft Amendments, the letter goes on to say, does not include a single proposal of importance for a greater democratization of society: the right to strike, the right to direct elections, the independence of the judiciary, and the tenure of judges. These proposals were not supported at all even by the Slovene Constitutional Commission, although they were strongly emphasized in the public discussions, and neither the commission nor the SAWP have made a single specific proposal on how to eliminate from the Constitution "the strivings for a state party and a party state."

For all these reasons, the statement assesses the interpretations by some Slovene politicians—especially those participating in the work of the Federal Constitutional Commission—that the proposed draft is a good basis for democratization and for setting free the economic laws are very disputable. Mistrust is raised by their call that the public discussion should not pay any attention to strivings toward centralism and unitarianism, which is an expression of their readiness to compromise.

Slovene writers blame the Draft Amendments because in their opinion the amendments do not offer any essential changes in the status of the citizen as an individual. This clashes with the basic principle of the Constitution "which clearly states that the socioeconomic and political system is meant for man and his role in society, and not the other way round." Another thing which is not good is that the Draft Amendments continue to insist on the fetishism of manual labor, as this can be seen from the division of people into workers, working people, and other citizens. It is particularly obvious in the requirement that at least a half of the delegates in the Federal Chamber must come from material production.

Because of all this, the statement openly asks the Slovene representatives in the Federal Constitutional Commission and this republic's delegates to the SFRY Assembly Federal Chamber whether they voted for or against such draft amendments and why they failed to demand that alternative proposals, above all those supported by the entire Yugoslav public, be included in the Draft Amendments.

Monopoly on Truth [subhead]

The SAWPY Federal Conference's efforts to direct the public debate, as well as the LCY Central Committee's attempts to deprive LCY members of the right to their own opinion through its guidelines, are unacceptable and undemocratic. This is irrefutable proof of the fact that "the LCY is by no means ready to renounce its monopoly on truth and power."

Reducing their assessment of the Draft Amendments to UNACCEPTABILITY [preceding word published in uppercase], Slovene writers think that the republican SAWP must continue demanding that the Slovene Assembly, discussing each amendment separately, and agreeing on it, should see to it that only those amendments that have been approved by the Slovene Assembly will be included in the final proposal of the amendments to be considered by the Federal Assembly delegates. They also demand that a referendum be conducted before the Assembly adopts its decision, but there should be a sufficient open public debate on the final text of the amendments.

Regarding such a referendum, the statement warns that "there have been several occasions when this issue was clouded and the public war deceived in connection with requests for such a referendum." The Slovene Writers Association supports a referendum in Slovenia that would oblige the Republican Assembly "to express agreement with the proposal," and at the same time it supports "more far-reaching changes to the SFRY Constitution." These changes should be such that they really ensure the sovereignty of peoples and citizens in the republics and a more democratic political belief, as well as prevent the monopoly of any political organization or state institution concerning interference with the rights of individuals or peoples.

Measure for Observations [subhead]

The statement is signed by 10 members of the Managing Committee of the Slovene Writers Association.

At its session on 11 January 1988 devoted to preparations for the LCY Central Committee session, the Central Committee Presidium of the LC of Slovenia defined its attitude toward the public debate and the Draft Constitutional Amendments, as well as the LC role within the front of organized socialist forces concerning this debate. On that occasion, along with really substantial observations of the Draft Constitutional Amendments, it adopted clear criteria and guidelines on the basis of which it is possible and necessary to think over the offered draft. This is said in the reply by the Central Committee Presidium of the LC of Slovenia at its session on 1 February, addressed to the Slovene Writers Association.

The Presidium, it is further said, has striven for the creation of a climate in which there will be more understanding for considering observations formed in the broad professional, delegate, and political discussions in Slovenia; it has drawn attention to the harm caused by renewing proposals that are directed against the constitutional provisions expressing the equality of peoples and nationalities and guaranteeing the independence of responsibility of the republics and autonomous provinces. It has rejected approaches that divert attention from real problems and polarizations to accusations against the LC and demand the introduction of a multiparty system, liquidation of socialism, or the abolition of the federal system.

We noted today, it is said in the reply, that the LCY Central Committee at its 12th session incorporated in its conclusions (published in KOMUNIST of 21 January 1988) an approach that proceeds from the need to complement the offered constitutional changes, that it stressed the significance of the public discussion and of communist activities within the SAWP and the widest front of socialist subjective forces, together with all working people and citizens.

The LCY Central Committee did not accept the requests that it should use its authority to back the proposed Draft Constitutional Amendments, particularly since no democratic discussion was carried out in the LC ranks before its session—and such a discussion is a condition for its decision—but only noted the basic harmony of the essence of the draft with the guidelines of the 13th LCY Congress. It is important that the conclusions stressed the openness of the public discussion and its significance for enhancing the quality of the draft, and it is even more important that the conclusions incorporate the substantial criteria formed in numerous expert, delegate, and political discussions, including those in Slovenia, on the basis of which it is possible to critically appraise and complement the provisions offered (a strengthening of the role of associated labor and the development of self-management along with a full consideration for economic laws and the planned market economy; a strengthening of the relations in the federation on the basis of equality of the peoples and nationalities in Yugoslavia and a strengthening of the independence and responsibility of the republics and provinces for their own fate and for the common development and operations of the federation; a more consistent respect for the rights and freedoms of working people and citizens; a reduction of normativism and the framing of a more modern constitutional text on the threshold of the 21st century.)

Peculiar Contradiction [subhead]

In the statement by the Managing Committee of the Slovene Writers Association one can recognize positions and guidelines advocated by the LC of Slovenia. The Presidium of the Central Committee of the LC of Slovenia notes that this is far from being true as regards the remarks in the statement by the Managing Committee of the Slovene Writers Association which accuse LC activities of being undemocratic, depriving the Communists of their right to an independent opinion, and violating all democratic election principles, and even criticize them as "incontrovertible evidence that the LCY Central Committee in the name of the entire LCY is by no means ready to renounce its monopoly on the truth and power."

A peculiar contradiction is also involved in the fact that such assertions are made in a statement which in itself is much more exclusive, directing, and binding for the members of the Slovene Writers Association than the LCY Central Committee conclusions are. It is difficult to resist the impression that it is a matter of the revival of old and outdated theses about the role of the state party and of transposing them to the present situation and the actual LC role, without any proper relevance to the content of LCY Central Committee conclusions that were adopted. It is quite normal that different, and even extreme, opinions appear in public discussions; one should listen to them and take from them everything that the majority, on the basis of arguments, assesses as a useful warning or a creative effort in the search for the best possible solutions. However, one should oppose approaches that neglect the socialist nature of social relations in Yugoslavia and its federal system, and the strivings to consider and strengthen self-managing socialist democracy of a non-party kind, strivings to strengthen the role of the SAWP, to expand the actual power of the working people and citizens, and to strengthen the equality of the peoples and nationalities of Yugoslavia, in regards to which it is difficult to avoid the creative efforts of the LC of Slovenia.

Slovene Defense Council Considers Defense

LD171955 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] Ljubljana, 17 Feb (TANJUG)—The Council for National Defense of the Presidency of the SR of Slovenia today considered the long-term program to develop the system of territorial defense in Slovenia and, in addition, adopted a program of construction work on defense and protection projects to be carried out by members and units of the JNA [Yugoslav People's Army]. The Council also adopted this year's program of exercises. During the discussion of the long-term program of developing territorial defense, the Council called for more coordination with other sections of the national defense system and social self-protection. Sociopolitical communities directly responsible for the state and development of the system of territorial defense must provide better training and modern technical equipment if the system is to fulfill all its main functions more efficiently.

A statement issued after the session said that last year an extensive program was carried out in cooperation with Ljubljana Army District in building water supply systems, roads, bridges, post and telecommunication installations, and other important projects especially in border areas and less developed and hilly regions. In addition, the JNA members took part in a large number of voluntary work drives to help build sports and recreation complexes, public utilities, and other buildings. These work derives were organized in conjunction with local communities and munijciaplities.

The JNA contribution is therefore significant not only from the economic point of view but from the social and political point of view as well. This is reflected in the Army's successful links and cooperation with the local population, local communities, and municipalities.

This year's exercises will concentrate on testing the level of preparedness and on studying defense issues. In this way, the quality and efficiency of defense and protection activities and organization in a possible war and in cases of natural disasters will be enhanced.

Serbian LC Central Committee Presidium Meets

LD190039 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1656 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 18 Feb (TANJUG)—On the basis of assessments of work done before now by the municipal committees, their organs and bodies, and the assessments of the involvement of the presidents and secretaries in municipal LC organizations in Serbia, proposed candidates have been established for these duties in the coming 2-year period.

It is reported that the Serbian LC Central Committee Presidium, at a session today that was presided over by Slobodan Milosevic, considered the course of electoral activities in the LC municipal committees of Serbia. [passage omitted]

In consultations on the proposals, in keeping with the Serbian LC statute, all the basic organizations and organs of the LC took part, in line with the further democratization of decisionmaking for elections to the most responsible posts in the LC.

Among the proposed candidate for presidents and secretaries of municipal committee presidiums are 53 colleagues from production and 50 candidates who are to carry out these duties for the first time.

At today's session, the order and number of delegates was established for the LCY Conference. These are elected, according to the decision of the LCY Central Committee, in the municipal committees of the Serbian LC.

The Presidium appointed Miodrag Ivanovic, a lieutenant colonel in the Yugoslav People's Army, as president of the Serbian LC Central Committee Presidium's Commission for All-People's Defense and Social Self-Protection. [passage omitted]

Court To Examine Earlier Law on Strikes

LD171419 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1110 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] Belgrade, 17 Feb (TANJUG)—At one of its forthcoming sessions, the Constitutional Court of Yugoslavia will decide whether the regulation, which has now been changed, in the law on associated labor according to which work stoppages were prohibited and punished by dismissal as a breach of working duty, was in accordance with the Constitution. At today's session, Milovan Buzadzic was elected as investigating judge in this matter.

The initiative that an assessment should be made of the regulation's constitutionality was instigated by six workers at the port of Kopar who were dismissed from their jobs in 1985 for participating in a strike. In their opinion, the contentious regulation of the "old" law on associated labor is not in accordance with the Constitution, which does not, in any of its articles, prohibit strikes.

Although the contentious regulation of the law on associated labor ceased to be valid with the recently adopted changes and amendments to the law on associated labor, today the judges consider that there is a reason for reexamining the initiatives of the Kopar workers—particularly since on the basis of the contentious regulation they were left without jobs. Apart from this, the whole subject, in the opinion of the judges, should be studied more broadly, paying attention also to the current regulations of the amended law on associated labor that relate to strikes. The increasing number of strikes in the country, as well as the fact that "strike rules" have still to be worked out, which the Slovenes have already given their opinion about, indicates the need for a more comprehensive approach to this task, it was stressed at the session.

'Most Vocal' Miners Dismissed After Strike

AU171532 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 12 Feb 88 p 3

[N.S. report: "Dismissals Because of a Strike"]

[Text] Tuzla, 11 Feb—In the Kreka lignite mine, Mramor, near Tuzla, a disciplinary commission has announced measures for breaking off work relations with four miners who were the most vocal during the mine's work stoppage in November. Serif Sekic, an employee disabled at work, Dzevad Ohic, carpenter in the mine, Salko Begovic, a digger, and Huso Poljakov, assistant digger, were all dismissed.

It is strange that these dismissals have been handed out at a time when the Trade Union Federation is warning that workers who participate in work stoppages are not allowed to be disciplined if they have not broken the law.

Health Workers Strike Over Low Pay

LD151919 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1729 GMT 15 Feb 88

[Text] Ljubljana, 15 Feb (TANJUG)—Dissatisfied with their low personal incomes, about 500 employees in the lowest paid jobs (nurses and health technicians) at the Kirurgija basic organization of associated labor of the Ljubljana University Clinical Center stopped work today. After several talks with the management of this health center and with representatives of the trade unions, the relative stagnation of the personal incomes of these workers was established in relation to the earnings of employees with secondary and high school education. This is the consequence of (?last year's) agreement, so a working party has been set up that will review the provisions of this agreement and examine the scope for reducing pay differentials by additional measures. It was then decided to restart work tomorrow. The lowest basic personal incomes of the workers who today expressed their dissatisfaction by protesting amount to 180,000 dinars.

Strikers Gather Outside Slovene Assembly

LD162151 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1751 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Ljubljana, 15 Feb (TANJUG)—Workers at the Grosuplje construction enterprise today stopped work and demonstrated in front of the Slovene Assembly. Dissatisfied with the outcome of several hours of negotiations with the management of the collective, they announced that they will continue their strike tomorrow.

About 1,000 of them demanded a 50-percent increase in pay, cheaper and better quality food in their canteens, and a halt to agreements with private contractors.

According to a statement by the director in charge of the organization, Bogdan Korosec, wages in the collective were increased by 20 percent in December and by another 17 percent in January, and they now, on average, come to 370,000 dinars. The lowest personal income is about 200,000 dinars.

Workers Strike Because They Have 'No Work'

AU171713 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 12 Feb 88 p 3

[B.S. report: "A Strike Because of Lack of Work"]

[Text] Mostar, 11 Feb—This afternoon in Mostar there was the most unusual work stoppage so far, what one could call a unique strike involving 160 employees from the Soko metal structure assembly plant, which is part of the Izgradnja Objekata work organization. They walked for 5 kilometers carrying banners to get to the Mostar communal assembly building and to talks with representatives from the town's sociopolitical organizations.

The reason for the strike was the following: The factory is going through bankruptcy proceedings, as it cannot clear its debts accumulated over many years, and there has been no work here for 17 months, so the employees receive guaranteed personal incomes amounting to 74,000 dinars.

"We want work, we don't want bread," "We want a solution for every worker," are only some of the banners describing what is bothering the 160 workers.

Workers at Building Enterprise End Strike

LD181749 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1648 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Ljubljana, 18 Feb (TANJUG)—Workers at the Grosuplje building enterprise will return to work tomorrow after a 3-day strike. They accepted all the proposals of the joint meeting of the strike committee members, the management and representatives of the collective sociopolitical organization and the city of Ljubljana.

Although unwilling, they agreed that their wages for this month should be increased by 20 percent instead of the 50 percent which they had demanded. This will mean an average increase of 40,000 dinars. If work improves or increases in quantity, personal incomes, the management has promised, will be increased in the following months also. The proposal was also adopted so that in the future new workers should not reduce the administrative apparatus by 5 to 10 percent in the foreseeable future.

Director of the enterprise Bogdan Korosec was instructed to ensure the conditions for the realization of the agreed points, in the framework of his responsibilities. Among other things, regulations will be introduced that give more incentive in the spheres of bonuses and in the allocation of housing credits. This last point, it was stressed, does not suit workers from other republics.

Doubts that were expressed about the acquisition of property of five of the managers will be investigated.

New Journalists' Code Sparks Debate

LD190013 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1418 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 18 Feb (TANJUG)—The draft code for Yugoslav journalists was the target for criticism—the like of which has not been seen for a long time by a document like this—at today's session of the Secretariat of the SAWPY Federal Conference Section for Information and Public Opinion. There were even accusations that the document includes orientations different to those that are valid in society.

Dragoslav Rancic spoke about why the introduction of a new code had been started, addressing the Commission of the Federation of Journalists, which prepared the draft. He said that the code now in force was drawn up at a time when journalism was seen primarily as an agitating power for policy, rather than an expression of freedom and the right of citizens to know the truth. Other motives for drawing up a new code are the increasingly lively political discussions that journalists present to the public and that they often participate in themselves.

Justifying the proposal to change the code, Rancic said that a journalist is defined as a "public worker" whose main professional activity is informing the public. This definition respects the feelings which, in the commission's opinion, predominate among the majority of journalists. They do not feel themselves to be sociopolitical workers and do not wish to be sociopolitical workers, said Rancic.

This new definition of journalists was the thing most frequently attacked in the discussion. The sharpest criticism were directed in fact at the omission of the preamble of the existing code, that is of the principles that journalists must take as their starting point in doing their job. As the majority noted, any mention of the LCY program, the working class or the policy of nonalignment was omitted and not only from the preamble.

The basic starting point for the discussion by Sava Krzavac was that there had been no reason for the new code other than to exclude the LC, the working class, and the policy of nonalignment from it. On the argument that the journalist is a public worker and not a sociopolitical one, Krzavac said that such tendencies are part of the general trend of deideologization. The journalist, as a professional, is a craftsman, but he differs from other craftsmen in that he is also a sociopolitical worker. Anyway, a journalist from a communist newspaper cannot work on a fascist newspaper as well, whereas in the event that the system changes, a baker can still do the same job. This was one of Krzavac's arguments. [passage omitted]

Answering many criticisms at the end of the discussion, Dragoslav Rancic said that the discussion indicates that we have a complex and unfavorable atmosphere for this kind of debate. He too agreed with the comments that the preamble should not have been left out. But there is nothing behind this, as some are trying to prove, he said. Neither is it valid to say that the LCY has been thrown out of the code, because the LCY program most certainly does run through the code.

It a code is being drawn up for a professional organization then all the elements contained in the Constitution and the LCY program cannot be included in it, since then it would have to be larger in volume than those documents. In response to the criticism that it cannot be seen clearly enough that norms are in question, Rancic reacted by saying that he presumed it is understood that they are socialist and not fascist.

More will be said on all these issues in the forthcoming public discussion.

More Than 3,000 Newspapers Published in SFRY

AU181225 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian
12 Feb 88 p 3

[Unattributed Report: "Lower Circulation and—Pay"]

[Text] According to the data of the Federal Statistical Institute, about 3,000 different newspapers and periodicals are published in Yugoslavia, including 27 dailies, 8 papers appearing more than once a week, 204 weeklies, 293 biweeklies, and 953 monthlies, with almost 1,500 appearing at intervals. Newspaper and publishing organizations issue 473 periodicals, basic organizations of associated labor issue 1,242, noneconomic organizations publish 172, and military organizations issue 14 magazines, bulletins, and gazettes. Nearly 3,000 various work organization newspapers and bulletins are published too. Some of these publications even appear in five languages.

Between 11,000 and 12,000 journalists work for these publications, of whom 8,011 are LCY members. Records show that 51 journalists have been expelled from the LCY since 1982, and 41 have voluntarily resigned from the LC. The average number of daily newspapers printed between January and September of last year was 2,560,062. The total number printed was 616,087,918, of which 517,079,759 copies were sold. During the same period, the number of daily papers printed and sold fell by an average of 0.46 and 1.56 percent respectively, while both these figures rose in the case of other papers. The number of unsold copies is rising in the case of all papers, and by an average of 6.2 percent among the dailies. The total number of daily papers sold is 1.56 percent lower, while the figure in the case of all other publications taken together has risen by 3.81 percent. The average number of copies printed has risen in the case of 12 daily papers, and has fallen in the case of 15. Only six support themselves from their sales and advertising: VECERNJE NOVOSTI, VECERNJI LIST, POLITIKA, POLITIKA EKSPRES, SPORT, and SPORTSKE NOVOSTI.

In the first 9 months of last year, total subsidies paid to daily papers amounted to 9,731,133,000 dinars, but despite this six papers experienced losses during the same period amounting to 1,789,811,000 dinars.

Personal incomes for those working in the press are low. The average personal income during the first 9 months of last year was 230,641 dinars, including the foreign post differentials of correspondents abroad. In some publishing houses personal incomes were exceptionally low: at Banja Luka GLAS, 122,646 dinars; NOVA MAKEDONIJA, 131,840 dinars; Pristina JEDINSTVO, 133,292 dinars; Titograd POBJEDA, 146,081 dinars; Sarajevo OSLOBODJENJE, 158,540 dinars; and Pristina RILINDJA, 161,401 dinars.

OSLOBODJENJE, VJESNIK, VECERNJI LIST, NOVI LIST, DELO, Ljubljana DNEVNIK, BORBA, VECERNJE NOVOSTI, POLITIKA, and RILINDJA have more than 200 employees.